MOUNTIE REMEMBERED FOR GENTLE SPIRIT, PG 3

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Sports pg 18

Rainmen let win slip away to PBL's top team



Celebrity Buzz

Brittany's death leads to lawsuit

pg 34



Iggy won't force federal election

POLITICS Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff says he has no interest in trying to force an election this spring, even though his party appears to be on the comeback trail.

Recent polls suggest the Liberals are now in a statistical dead heat with the Conservatives, with support for each hovering just above 30 per cent.

That's a big improvement for the Grits, who plunged as much as 15 points behind the Tories last fall after Ignatieff declared his intention to defeat the minority government at the earliest opportunity.

Ignatieff has since dropped all talk of provoking an election and the improving poll numbers aren't enticing enough for him to resume sabre rattling. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Rodeo **Leaving nothing behind**



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Jim Cuddy and his Blue Rodeo bandmates perform Thursday night at the Metro Centre. Blue Rodeo is on a three-month Canadian tour in support of their new album The Things We Left Behind.

Money for nothing

N.S. faces $3M bill for defunct ferry

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The province must pay Bay Ferries $3 million this year to not operate the defunct Yarmouth CAT Ferry.

"I have no choice," Tourism Minister Percy Paris said Thursday.

One year ago, the Tory government announced a Bay Ferries subsidy of up to $12 million. At the time, it was not disclosed the province would have to pay $3 million of that if it didn't subsidize the company again this year.

When the NDP rejected Bay Ferries' desired $5-million to $10-million subsidy this fall, it was suddenly on the hook for sending six no-question-asked cheques of $500,000 to the company.

"We have no choice, no legal wiggle room but to honour that agreement," Paris said.

"I couldn't quite understand why we would have agreed as a province to give somebody money for not providing a service to the province of Nova Scotia," he added.

When the contract was signed on Jan. 22, 2009, an election was looming and the NDP had a large lead in the polls. The Tories wanted to keep the ferry alive for at least one more season.

"That was there basically for (Bay Ferries') protection in the event that the other partner, that being the government, pulled the plug," Tory Leader Karen Casey said.

Casey added they wanted to prolong the ferry's life — and its economic benefits — until a transportation study due this spring could chart a way forward. Casey said they wanted a contract to keep the ferry going "regardless of who the government was ... until another alternative was found."

However, when Paris asked Bay Ferries for a business case to support them, he paraphrased them as saying "we can't give you a good business case as to why you'd want to continue this marriage with us."

The government walked away and Bay Ferries subsequently received its termination fee.

The Tories and Liberals both attempted yesterday to shift blame away from the previous government and onto the NDP for not supporting the ferry. They say the move will have a devastating economic effect on the province.

Termination clause

• The Progressive Conservative caucus is calling for Percy Paris' resignation over the $3 million given to Bay Ferries. The Tories say Paris clearly didn't know about the termination clause in the contract when he rejected a Bay Ferries' subsidy. Paris told reporters he was aware of the clause and it was part of his considerations. The government maintains it could not afford the subsidy.

Winter's been kind to HRM, so far

WEATHER Residents of HRM were set to wake up Friday morning to what has become a rare sight this winter — a fresh dusting of snow.

Mother Nature has been relatively kind to HRM over the past three months, dumping only a dozen or so centimetres every few weeks on Halifax and the surrounding areas. As of Thursday afternoon, the total accumulation for January stood at 26 centimetres. That's a major drop from January 2009, when 90 cm fell from the skies.

"We have received less snow this year than in the past," said Environment Canada meteorologist Cindy Vallis. "It may be seen as a little unusual ... but you have to keep in mind that we still have February and March to get through."

Vallis said HRM has been spared several times as storm systems pass to the north, south and west of the region. Other areas haven't been so lucky.

"In Yarmouth, for example, they've actually seen more snow than usual," she said.

Just two months ago, Environment Canada was predicting a "normal amount of precipitation" for December, January and February. MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX

News on the Move

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Vancouver Games

Countdown to 2010

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• Canada, U.S. remain cream of women's hockey crop, page 20

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Local



Place your bets on Sam

Here's hoping Shubenacadie Sam stays out for a while. Nova Scotia's famous weather-predicting groundhog is hosting his annual party at the Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park on Tuesday beginning at 7:30 a.m. The province's time zone allows Sam to be the first groundhog in North America to make a prediction on Groundhog Day. According to tradition, if Sam sees his shadow and runs back in his burrow, Nova Scotia will have six more weeks of winter. If he doesn't and stays out, spring is just around the corner. METRO HALIFAX

'Gentle, kind spirit' mourned

700 officers march in farewell to Mountie killed in Haiti earthquake

A former Nova Scotia Mountie from New Brunswick who died in the earthquake in Haiti was remembered Thursday as a doting father, a gentle man who wanted to serve others, and a practical joker who became best friends with everyone he knew.

About 700 police officers marched in a procession to St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church in Woodstock, N.B., before the RCMP regimental funeral for Sgt. Mark Gallagher. Some 350 people packed the small brick church for the service, while an overflow of mourners watched the funeral on television at a local civic centre in Woodstock and at the Moncton Wesleyan Church.

Gallagher, a well-known RCMP spokesman for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, was in Port-au-Prince as part of the United Nations training force when the earthquake struck the island nation on Jan. 12.

Rev. Wesley Wade said he knew Gallagher when he was growing up in Bathurst and followed his career with the RCMP, where he would often handle difficult situations as a media relations officer with the police force.



ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An honour guard walks beside the hearse carrying RCMP Sgt. Mark Gallagher to his funeral mass at St. Gertrude's Roman Catholic Church in Woodstock, N.B. Thursday. Gallagher, killed in an earthquake two weeks ago, was part of an international police force working in Haiti.

"Mark discharged his responsibility with dignity, with respect and with a great deal of compassion," he said in French.

Rev. Karl Ingersoll, the pastor of the First Wesleyan Church in Fredericton, said his friend was an avid runner and well-known practical joker.

The 50-year-old married father of two adult children, Heather and Shane, was also remembered for his service to others, particularly the disadvantaged.



Sgt. Mark Gallagher

Lisa Gallagher said her husband had patience for everyone, which was sometimes a frustration when he ran into people he knew in local grocery stores.

Lisa also said her husband — whose guilty pleasure were bags of potato chips that he was known to hide around the house — rarely got angry. "Mark was a gentle, kind spirit."

But his last trip home from Haiti at Christmas was different.

"Mark was conflicted on a number of different levels," she said. "He had tremendous trouble reconciling our lifestyle to the misery he was seeing in Haiti. He wanted to return to Haiti, yet he did not want to leave me alone in Northampton over the winter months."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Economy to be more in line: Report

GDP Nova Scotia fared better than most other provinces in Canada during last year's global financial meltdown, says a new report, but don't expect the trend to continue.

With the economic woes of 2009 now behind us, the province is expected to fall back behind the rest of the pack in terms of GDP growth as Ontario and B.C. rebound. METRO HALIFAX

Cops nab teen after complaint

TRESPASSING A 17-year-old is facing several charges including obstructing a peace officer and flight from police after Halifax RCMP received calls about three males trespassing on properties on Nelson Drive in Lawrencetown Thursday morning.

Police say witnesses told them they saw three males run toward a van parked on the road and drove off toward Crowell Road, where they began walking on people's properties there. They then left in the van, which police say belonged to one of the suspects. It was pulled over at Old Mineville Road, where police say the occupants ran from the vehicle.

Police say the 17-year-old was arrested after a foot pursuit, but the other two males couldn't be located. The teen is also charged with two counts of trespass at night and one count of mischief. METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

WEAPONS A 47-year-old woman and 16-year-old male youth are facing a number of weapons related offences after Halifax Regional Police conducted a search at a residence on Aukland Place in Halifax on Wednesday afternoon. Police say the search was a result of information they received regarding weapons at the location and they seized a rifle and a shotgun — both sawed off. Both the woman and youth were arrested at the scene and were due in court Thursday. METRO HALIFAX

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video A tender moment between a man and his hen on a New York subway gets the attention of authorities at **metronews.ca/world**

Blogs It's Called Football welcomes Chivas defender Ante Jazic to discuss his upcoming season.



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3 teens charged after pot seizure

Two males aged 19 and 16 and a 17-year-old female are facing charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking after a vehicle was stopped on Bridget Avenue in Halifax overnight. Police say they seized a large quantity of marijuana along with other drug paraphernalia. METRO HALIFAX

Keep Naugle in jail: MADD chief

Serial drunk driver hasn't proven he's not a danger to public, president says

The national president of MADD Canada says no jail term is long enough under the present circumstances for a serial drunk driver waiting to be sentenced for his latest conviction.

Margaret Miller said Terry Naugle deserves to remain behind bars until it can be proven he is no longer a danger to the public when behind the wheel.

"He hasn't proved that yet — not at all," Miller, a Shubencadie resident, said Thursday. "As long as there are cars out there and he's in the same mind he has been the last 22 times he's been caught, he'll continue to drive, and drink and drive."

Naugle, who is from the Truro region, has 22 convictions for impaired driving or refusing the breathalyzer dating back to 1978.

His length of incarceration has risen from 30 days in jail to three and a half years following a March 2006 arrest.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Serial drunk driver Terry Naugle is led from the Dartmouth courthouse in this November file photo.

Now, Naugle is waiting to be sentenced on his latest conviction — a March 28, 2009, incident where, while impaired, he hit the McMillan family's vehicle at the Enfield on-ramp to Highway 102.

Naugle pleaded guilty in October and a sentence hearing was held Wednesday — with the judge choosing Feb. 12 for announcing the 52-year-old's punishment.

"It's an absolute wonder he hasn't killed somebody or hurt somebody seriously, or even killed himself," said Miller, who sat through most of the court proceedings. "If that had happened, it certainly would have allowed for a much harsher sentence, but at this point it doesn't. It's unfortunate that it has to get to that point."

Miller is impressed with the resolve of the victims, Peter and Julia McMillan and their daughter Jillian, 13. The Tatamagouche family has been in court for every minute of the case. They have also been open to speaking publicly about it.

"They realize what this could have been," Miller said. "They're not looking away and are making sure this doesn't happen to another family."

PHILIP CROUCHER/ METRO HALIFAX

Sentence

- MADD Canada president Margaret Miller is firmly behind the recommendation of the Crown, which is seeking separate maximum sentences for Terry Naugle of five years for both impaired driving and for driving while prohibited — for a total of 10 consecutive years in jail. Naugle's defence lawyer has asked for a four-year prison sentence.

Swift action on recalled Toyotas no surprise to dealerships

AUTO Toyota Canada made the right decision when it recalled millions of vehicles and halted production at six different assembly plants this week, says a Toyota dealer in Nova Scotia.

Larry MacKeigan, dealer principal of Tri-Mac Toyota in Port Hawkesbury, told the Cape Breton Post he expected Toyota to respond swiftly to scattered reports of accelerator pedals sticking in certain vehicles.

"It doesn't surprise me one bit they would grab this thing by the horns and wrestle it down no matter what the cost to them," he said.

The recall affects a number of the company's best-selling models, including the Camry and Corolla.

O'Regan's Toyota, the province's largest Toyota dealership network with locations in Halifax and Dartmouth, opted not to comment directly on the effect the recall is having on its business, referring all inquiries to Toyota Canada's main offices in Toronto.

"The big thing with Toyota is that if there's a problem they address it, and it's the same with us," said Susan Johnston, director of communications for O'Regan's. "We don't want anyone feeling uncomfortable."

Most customers affected by the recall will receive a letter informing them of the possible defect in the pedal mechanism, a spokesperson for Toyota Canada said.

Anyone seeking more information is asked to contact their dealership or to call 1-888-869-6828.

MONIQUE MUISE/METRO HALIFAX

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 16

Models affected by the recall

- 2009-10 RAV4
- 2009-10 Corolla
- 2009-10 Matrix
- 2005-10 Avalon
- 2010 Highlander
- 2007-10 Tundra
- 2008-10 Sequoia
- 2007-10 Camry (certain models)

More school workers back new contract

VOTE CUPE school board workers from the South Shore Regional School Board are the latest group to vote overwhelmingly in favour of a new contract with the province.

The five-year deal agreed upon last week saw 97 per cent vote in favour. The deal is retroactive to April 1, 2007, and includes wage increases of 2.9 per cent in the first three years, and one per cent in the final two years of the contract.

CUPE was representing about 3,100 school board workers outside the Halifax region in contract negotiations, with all boards so far voting overwhelmingly in favour. METRO HALIFAX

News in brief

FUNDING A tidal energy project in Nova Scotia is getting a financial boost from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency. The Fundy Ocean Research Centre for Energy will receive $852,000 to help with construction of an observation facility. The land-based facility will overlook the technology test site in the Minas Passage, about 10 kilometres west of Parrsboro. THE CANADIAN PRESS

COURT A Cape Breton man appeared in court Thursday to face charges after a hit-and-run incident that damaged a home and vehicle in Frenchvale. Police say they responded to a complaint of someone using their vehicle to damage another vehicle and a home on Frenchvale Road around 9:50 p.m. Wednesday. A short time later, the suspect was arrested. Police say he faces a number of charges, including possession of a firearm dangerous to the public and impaired driving.

CAPE BRETON POST



Oil tank knocked over
Halifax RCMP are investigating an oil tank being pushed over and motion sensors broken at the Beechville Baptist Church. METRO HALIFAX

Exercising for breast cancer, world record

Richard Simmons to lead 9-hour fitness marathon

MONIQUE MUISE
monique.muise@metronews.ca

It seems Nova Scotians are more than willing to bust out their wallets in support of breast cancer treatment in the province.

Organizers of the Bust a Move for Breast Cancer event — set to take place Saturday at the Halifax Metro Centre — said Thursday they had already gathered $794,119 to support the purchase of a new digital mammography unit to serve women from across the province. Their original goal was $750,000.

"We're thrilled with the overwhelming response," said event chair Marie Mullally. "It shows that people really want to give to this cause. Breast cancer affects so many women, and families and communities."

Around 1,000 participants have been gathering pledges for almost three months, said Mullally, and come Saturday, they will descend on the Metro Centre for a nine-hour exercise extravaganza organized by the QEII and IWK Foundations. The exercisers will be led by fitness instructors from around the Halifax Regional Municipality, along with fitness guru and short-shorts enthusiast Richard Simmons. It will be the 61-year-old celebrity's first visit to Nova Scotia.


Richard Simmons

"One of our organizers was just speaking to him at lunchtime, and he's thrilled to be coming to Halifax," Mullally said. "I think he's going to be a big hit."

Organizers are still hoping that the sheer number of people involved in the marathon will be enough to break two world records related to mass-fitness events. Details of the record attempts are still being kept under wraps, but a representative from Guinness World Records is reportedly flying in for the festivities.

"We're very hopeful that in our closing ceremony he'll be presenting us with certificates confirming the two records," Mullally said.

Robin **Sign of an early spring?**


RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

A robin snacks on some berries as it perches on a branch early Thursday morning outside a home in Halifax.

Response time was normal after helicopter tragedy: Defence official

MILITARY A senior defence official was pressed Thursday on why military choppers were away on training when Cougar Flight 491 crashed last March off Newfoundland and why search-and-rescue response times lag behind those of other countries.

Under questioning by MP Jack Harris, Col. Paul Drover told an inquiry into offshore helicopter safety that emergency response on March 12 wasn't undermined by the fact that choppers based in Gander, N.L., were two hours away instead of one.

"We had the Halifax search-and-rescue region, the standby posture was in place, so we did not reduce our capability at any time during that training exercise," said Drover. "It was just a function of the location."

All three search-and-rescue Cormorants based in Gander were near Sydney on training when the Cougar helicopter flight went down about 60 kilometres east of St. John's.

Seventeen of 18 people onboard were killed.

Harris said it's tough to square Drover's comment with the military's own admission that it took twice as long for Cormorants to reach the disaster scene from Cape Breton as it would have from Gander.

Maj. Denis McGuire confirmed in the days after the tragedy the choppers arrived in two hours instead of one.

Drover said he couldn't compare Canada's search-and-rescue response times to other countries because he didn't know them.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Man dead after collision

A 43-year-old man is dead after his car collided with a transport truck in Yarmouth County. The RCMP said the accident occurred shortly after 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Hebron exit on Highway 101. The driver of the truck wasn't hurt. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Be aware of bad weather, Estabrooks urges drivers

SAFETY Transportation Minister Bill Estabrooks isn't planning any immediate highway changes after a recent Acadian Lines bus crash, but he is encouraging driver safety.

Estabrooks said he is open to ideas such as snow fences to improve highway safety, but in the meantime he said the most important thing is for people to be aware of bad weather.

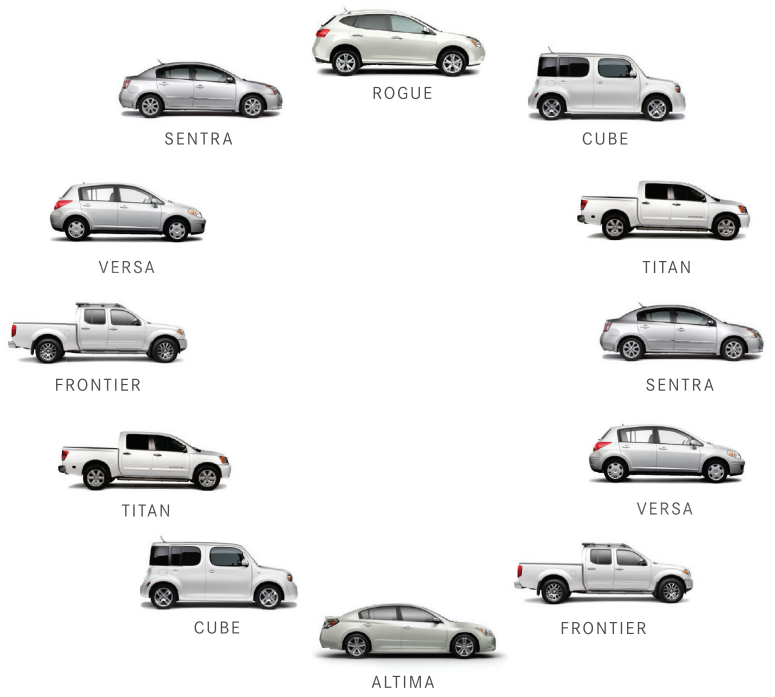
"I urge drivers to take caution and be prepared for winter driving conditions. There are some sections of Nova Scotia highways that are treacherous at best," he said.

One of those areas is on Highway 104 near Monastery.

Last Saturday, an Acadian Lines bus slid off the road there and crashed into the Tracadie River. No one was killed, but five of the six passengers were taken to hospital.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

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Minister mum on education proposals

Recommendations include legally binding students to stay in school

PAUL MCLEOD
paul.mcleod@metronews.ca

The province's education minister won't say whether she will adopt tough new law changes to coral students back into the classroom.

Legally binding students to stay in school until the age of 18 and opening parents up to charges of neglect if they keep their children out of class were among the recommendations in a government report on absenteeism released Wednesday.

But Thursday, Marilyn More was staying mum on the report.

"I'm not going to comment on the individual recommendations. They were presented as sort of a comprehensive package," she told reporters after a cabinet meeting.


Marilyn More

"One of the reasons I'd like to delay any comment is because we're consulting with the general public and parents and families and students and teachers."

The consultation process runs until March 12, at which point More said she will be willing to comment.

She wouldn't say whether any of the ideas could be enacted by the beginning of the next school year.

"I want to be careful any decisions we make don't have unintended consequences," she said.

"I want to be careful any decisions we make don't have unintended consequences."
Education Minister Marilyn More

"So I have to make sure that we co-ordinate our action in a way that doesn't impact negatively on students and some other initiatives already in place."

The report was written by a committee chaired by Howard Windsor, who formally had acted as the one-man Halifax Regional School Board when it was temporarily disbanded in 2006

The report was completed in September and presented to More in late October. She said the delay in its public release was due to the complexity of the issues.

Other recommendations include investing in better attendance tracking systems, developing a communications strategy to explain to parents and students the importance of attending class, introducing more severe penalties for chronic absenteeism, and channelling extra funds into alternative programming for at-risk students.

ShareYourViews
halifaxletters@metronews.ca

News in brief

TUITION Students at the University of Prince Edward Island are fearing the worst about a possible tuition increase for the next school year. UPEI is preparing its budget for next year, but both the university and students are waiting for the provincial budget to come down in April. Student union president Tim Cullen said the university is talking about an increase of between two and six per cent.

CHARLOTTETOWN GUARDIAN

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	1 **Dine Out NS:** Feb. 1–11, savour the decadent three-course, prix fixe menus offered by restaurants throughout Nova Scotia during food and wine month!	DINEOUT **Dine Out NS** Feb. 1–11 	3 **Dine Out NS** Feb. 1–11 	4 **Winter Icewine Festival**, Feb. 4–14. Sample the cool at: Brooklyn Warehouse, Delta Barrington, Delta Halifax, Five Fishermen, Saege Bistro **Dine Out NS**	5 **Icewine Festival:** Domain de Grand Pré hosts a dessert wine & cheese tasting at Tattingstone Inn, Wolfville Get a Warm Winter's Glow at Blomidon Estate Winery **Dine Out NS**	6 **White Point Seafood Festival:** special dinner & overnight packages **Icewine Festival:** Brooklyn Warehouse, Delta Barrington, Delta Halifax, Five Fishermen, Saege Bistro
7 **Winter Icewine Festival**, Feb. 4–14. Sample the cool at: Brooklyn Warehouse, Delta Barrington, Delta Halifax, Five Fishermen, Saege Bistro **Dine Out NS**	8 **Winter Icewine Festival**, Feb. 4–14. Sample the cool at: Brooklyn Warehouse, Delta Barrington, Delta Halifax, Five Fishermen, Saege Bistro **Dine Out NS**	9 Da Maurizio's **Four Course Masi Wine Dinner**, Tuesday & Wednesday evening **Dine Out NS** Feb. 1–11	10 Da Maurizio's **Four Course Masi Wine Dinner**, Tuesday & Wednesday evening 	11 **Brussels Beer Dinner**, featuring four delicious courses, beer pairings and live music **Dine Out NS** Feb. 1–11	12 DECADENCE Indulge at **Decadence**, a feast of chocolate, wine & cheese at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront Hotel 	13 **Valentine's Weekend Dinner & Dance** at White Point, Feb. 12–14 **Valentine's Dinner Special** at Trendz Café & Wine Bar, Feb. 12–14
14 **Oceanside VIP Valentine's Getaway** at White Point, Feb. 12–14 	15 	16 	17 Durty Nelly's 3-course **Irish Beer Dinner**, featuring the flavours of the Emerald Isle 	18 Enjoy **Pinot & Popcorn** at a showing of the hit movie Sideways 	19 SECOND ANNUAL Rare & Fine Wine Tasting **2nd Annual Rare & Fine Wine Tasting** at Windows 	20 Delta Hotels host a **West Coast Food & Wine Experience** **On The Rocks** overnight packages at White Point
21/28 **Oysters & Sauvignon**, featured all month long at Onyx and Cut Steakhouse 	22 **Oysters & Sauvignon**, featured all month long at Onyx and Cut Steakhouse 	23 	24 **Oysters & Sauvignon**, featured all month long at Onyx and Cut Steakhouse	25 Savour food & wine **Savour food & wine Show** at the Marriott Halifax Harbourfront Hotel 	26 **Oysters & Sauvignon**, featured all month long at Onyx and Cut Steakhouse	27 

This calendar represents just a small sample of fabulous events; visit **eDining.ca** and click on the **Savour** logo for more events and details.

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Scientists call on Charest to stop asbestos exporting

Scientists from 28 countries are appealing to Quebec Premier Jean Charest to put a stop to asbestos exports from the province. They are asking Charest in a letter dated Thursday to take heed of extensive international scientific opinion that all forms of asbestos present a danger for public health. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Fonyo wants Order of Canada back

The man who raised millions for cancer research is thanking the public for supporting him after he was stripped of the Order of Canada. Steve Fonyo, left, made the comment from jail, where he is serving the remainder of an assault sentence after breaching his parole conditions. The Order of Canada can be revoked for several reasons, including when a recipient has been convicted of a criminal offence. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mystery over missile-like object deepens

NEWFOUNDLAND Questions continue to swirl around claims that missiles had been spotted over Newfoundland's southern coast, with a Liberal MP accusing Ottawa of providing no answers on the mysterious sightings. Gerry Byrne, the MP for Humber-St. Barbe-Baie Verte, said Thursday he had received no further information on the missile-like objects seen earlier this week.

A radio station in St. John's, N.L., said a French media outlet reported that France had conducted a ballistic missile test in the Atlantic Ocean, but far from the area where something was seen. No one from the French Embassy in Ottawa was available for comment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harpers calls for G20 unity

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is warning other G20 leaders that the very body that eased the world out of recession could fail unless countries put their differences aside.

"It will stand or fall on its ability to demonstrate in the months to come to come the same co-operative spirit it has shown over the past year," Harper told an audience of bankers, business executives, government leaders and economists.

"I am hopeful."

In a speech Thursday at the Davos World Economic Forum in Switzerland, the prime minister laid out his priorities for the G20 and G8 summits that Canada will host at the end of June.

He credited unprecedented co-operation among G20 members for cushioning the blow of the recession last year, but said countries now need to embrace what he is calling "enlightened sovereignty."

That's when a country acts in the best interests of others because, in the end, the country's own self-interests will benefit.

"When the G20 resumes in Toronto, the discussion should be ... less about narrow self-interest in sovereignty's name, than an expanded view of mutual interest, in which there is room for all to grow and prosper."

He said G20 countries need to get on the same page when it comes to cracking down on banking activity, implementing stimulus programs and designing exit strategies to eventually reduce debt.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper speaks at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland on Thursday.

News in brief

AFGHANISTAN The Canadian military has ordered a formal investigation into how a critical report on the beating of an Afghan prisoner remained buried at National Defence headquarters. In June 2006 soldiers captured a suspected Taliban fighter and handed him over to local police, who then beat him to the point where the Canadians had to intervene.

LAWSUIT The Supreme Court of Canada has rejected a request to rule on provisions of a wrongful death lawsuit brought by the grieving father of a Jehovah's Witness girl.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE

Many young Afghan vets struggle with returning to Canada, and a new outdoor program aims to ease the burden. Scan this code for the story.

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Canadians pleased with Tory response to Haiti: Poll

A new poll suggests a large majority of Canadians of all political stripes believe the Conservative government has responded well to the earthquake crisis in Haiti. The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey found that 71 per cent of respondents ranked the federal actions as good (41 per cent) or excellent (30 per cent). THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories take lead in Senate

New appointments end years of Liberal domination

The Conservatives will have effective control in both houses of Parliament and greater sway over the legislative agenda after Prime Minister Stephen Harper names five new senators Friday.

The appointment of the new Conservative senators will end years of Liberal domination in the Upper Chamber and leave the Conservatives just two seats shy of a majority there. The power shift could help clear the way for Harper's plans to reform the Senate itself.

Harper is poised to appoint two senators from Ontario and one each in Quebec, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador.

In Quebec, victim's right activist Pierre-Hughes Boisvenu is expected to be named to the Senate.

"I've concluded that if the opportunity presented itself, it would be an opportunity to serve the country and to promote the ideas I've defended in the areas of justice and public security in Canada," Boisvenu told Sherbrooke's Tribune newspaper Wednesday, saying he had not heard from Harper at that point.

Other names circulating include former fisheries minister Loyola Sullivan from Newfoundland, Margaret-Ann Blaney, a former minister in the New Brunswick government or Bernard Valcourt, a former member of the Mulroney cabinet and former Ontario provincial minister Bob Runciman.

Runciman has longstanding ties to Harper's side of the Conservative family. He supported the Canadian Alliance in its early days.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Harper's agenda

- Control of the Senate floor as well as bulked up numbers on Senate committees should mean a smoother ride for government bills through the legislative process. More importantly, Harper has said he would like to push ahead with his stalled efforts to make changes to the Senate, such as eight-year term limits and Senate elections in the provinces.



MATT DUNHAM/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speaks with France's Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner before the start of the opening session of the Afghanistan Conference in London on Thursday.

Canada to boost funding to stop poppies in Afghanistan

DRUGS Canada will nearly double its funding for the war against drugs in Afghanistan, but isn't ready to contribute cash to pay for negotiations with the Taliban.

Canada will contribute an extra $25 million to fight the spread of Afghanistan's illicit poppy crop — the backbone of the global heroin trade — on top of a previous contribution of $30 million, Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Thursday from London.

Cannon was representing Canada at an international meeting on Afghanistan. Delegates were plotting the eventual Western exit from the strife-torn country amid rising military casualties and growing public opposition after more than eight years of war.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai told delegates from about 70 countries and world bodies that he wants to convene a peace conference in his country to lure Taliban fighters to renounce violence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

MOUNTIES Another RCMP member involved with the Surrey Six investigation is in trouble. Const. Steve Perrault has been charged with one count of fraud and another count of attempted fraud.

OLYMPICS It took longer than expected, but it's finally beginning to look a lot like the Winter Olympics on Cypress Mountain.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Getting Back To BALANCE

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Suspected serial rapist arrested

Authorities say a suspected serial rapist has been captured in Austria after his DNA was linked to two cases in California. Ali Achekzai, a 32-year-old Afghan national, was arrested this week in Salzburg. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



J.D. Salinger dies at 91

J.D. Salinger, the legendary author, youth hero and fugitive from fame whose book The Catcher in the Rye shocked and inspired a world he increasingly shunned, has died at 91. Salinger, seen at left on a 1961 illustrated cover of Time magazine, died of natural causes at his remote New Hampshire home Wednesday, where he had lived for decades in self-imposed isolation. The Catcher in the Rye, with its immortal teenage protagonist, the twisted, rebellious Holden Caulfield, came out in 1951, a time of anxious, Cold War conformity and the dawn of modern adolescence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pork an aphrodisiac: Argentina's president

BUENOS AIRES Argentina's president thinks eating pig meat is really sexy.

Many people in this beef-loving nation reacted with surprise Thursday after Cristina Fernandez promoted pork in a speech during which she not only said pork is better than Viagra, but suggested she's personally proven it.

"I didn't know that eating pork improved sexual activity," Fernandez said in a meeting with representatives of the swine industry late Wednesday. "It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra."

"It is much more gratifying to eat some grilled pork than to take Viagra."
Cristina Fernandez

She even joked that "it was all good" after she enjoyed some pork with her husband, former President Nestor Kirchner.

"I think they might be right," Fernandez said to a laughing audience.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

FILE SHARING A group representing major music labels said it will reject a reduced penalty for a Minnesota woman found guilty of sharing 24 songs over the Internet, and will instead begin preparing for another trial to determine new damages. Last year, a jury ruled Jammie Thomas-Rasset wilfully violated the copyrights on 24 songs. She was ordered to pay $1.92 million US in damages. Last week, a judge reduced the verdict, calling the jury's penalty "monstrous and shocking."

GEORGIA Environmental groups sued the U.S. Navy on Thursday to halt plans for an offshore training range that they fear would threaten endangered whales, which migrate to nearby waters off Georgia each winter. The lawsuit says the Navy approved construction of the $100 million US range in July without completing studies to determine whether military ships would pose significant harm to the endangered species of whales. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

What's in a girl's name?

Baby born in Haitian DART clinic named after two Canadian medics

Haiti Crisis

If you read this story in a few years' time, Monique-Lucie Marie, here's how things happened on the day you were born.

You came into the world in a medical clinic run by the Canadian military, in a canvas tent just a few metres off the beach in Haiti. Your country had just been crippled by a powerful earthquake that reduced the area around you to chunks of rubble. Your grand entry occurred on a Thursday, with the help of the Canadian soldiers who'd come to lend a hand in your battered nation.

Your first name, by the way, comes from Canada.

Girl rescued

- A 16-year-old girl pulled from the rubble more than two weeks after the earthquake was in stable condition Thursday to the surprise of doctors, who said her survival was medically inexplicable.



RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cpl. Lucie Rouleau, left, from Quebec City, and Cpl. Monique Bartlett, from Oromocto, N.B., hold Monique-Lucie Marie Thursday after delivering her at the Canadian DART medical clinic in Jacmel, Haiti.

Its origins can be traced back to places called Oromocto, N.B., and Quebec City, the respective home towns of Cpl. Monique Bartlett and Master Cpl. Lucie Rouleau, the two Canadian medical technicians who assisted in the delivery.

Your father promised he'd tell you one day why he and your mom chose it.

"I did it to say thank you," said Jean-Charles Pierre. "I will tell her one day that in the middle of a natural catastrophe, Canadians were in Jacmel. And she carries their name." Yours was the first delivery of a baby in the military clinic in Jacmel, the base of Canada's Disaster Assistance Response Team. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man allegedly abused Haitians

SCHOOL A Colorado man charged with sexually abusing boys at a school he founded for street children in Haiti faces new charges that raise the number of alleged victims to 18. Authorities accuse Douglas Perlitz of enticing children at the Project Pierre Toussaint school in Cap-Haitien into sex acts by promising them food, shelter, cash, cellphones, electronics and shoes. They say he also withheld benefits and threatened to expel the boys if they refused his wishes. Perlitz, who founded the school when he lived in Connecticut, was arrested last September at his home in Eagle, Colo., and remains in custody.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Iran vows to follow Thursday's executions with justice for other 'foreign-linked' anti-regime activists. Scan this code for the story.

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Bernanke confirmed to second term
The U.S. Senate has confirmed Ben Bernanke for a second term as chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama's speech spawns controversy

The U.S. Supreme Court justices may never show up again, journalist Chris Matthews is on the defensive and Republicans are taking issue with being chided for their partisanship.

State of the Union addresses historically disappear into the ether, having not the slightest impact on a president's standing in the polls, given a cynical public that considers the events little more than primetime advertisements for the current administration.

But U.S. President Barack Obama's speech and its aftermath was the talk of Washington Thursday — in particular, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito's response to Obama's criticism about a recent high court ruling to roll back limits on corporate spending on political campaigns.

In keeping with tradition, the other five judges in attendance sat stone-faced through much of the address; an ailing Ruth Ginsburg even nodded off.

Politics of decorum

- Wednesday's speech saw what was considered a breach of decorum on behalf of both U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito and U.S. President Barack Obama — Alito for responding, and Obama for criticizing the Supreme Court, even though Abraham Lincoln once expressed his disgust for a pro-slavery Supreme Court ruling.

Supreme Court justices, after all, must not appear to be partisan.

But Alito, a George W. Bush appointee, shook his head, furrowed his brow and uttered "not true, not true" when Obama said, erroneously, that the court had reversed a century of law with its decision.

Matthews, the MSNBC host, was under fire for the remark he made while praising Obama's "post-racial" presidency and his role in helping to end racial prejudice: "I forgot he was black."

Those five words immediately caused a frenzy on Twitter and in the blogosphere, with hundreds of commenters either questioning what Matthews meant or openly accusing him of racism.

Matthews returned to the air soon after to explain himself — in short, that it was a thrill for him, having grown up during the civil rights movement, to watch a black president address a Congressional gathering made up of mostly white people.

Republicans, meantime, were still smarting Thursday after being scolded by Obama for voting against every piece of legislation "just because they can."

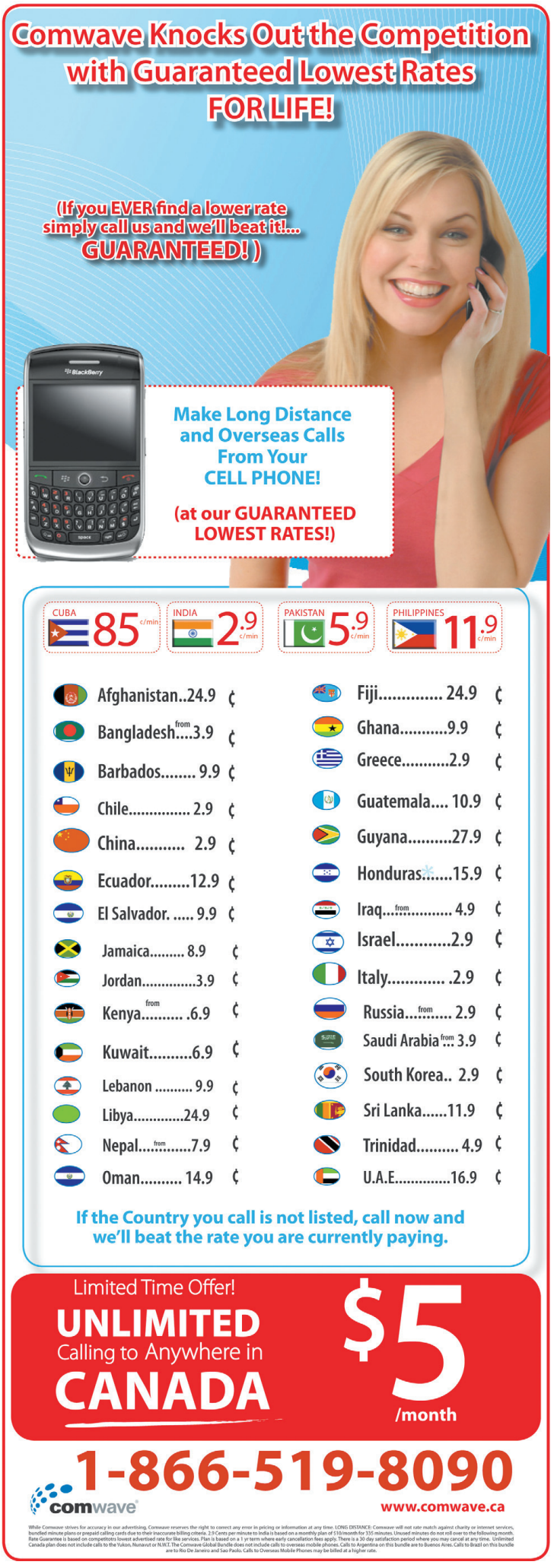
"If he had an intention to reach out to Republicans, I can tell you it did not achieve the objective, nor did I think it was as much an assessment of the state of the nation or union as it was a political tirade," said Senator Jon Kyl of Arizona.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ITALY The legend of Leonardo da Vinci is shrouded in mystery: How did he die? Are the remains buried in a French chateau really those of the Renaissance master? Was the "Mona Lisa" a self-portrait in disguise? A group of Italian scientists believes the key to solving those puzzles lies with the remains — and they say they are seeking permission from authorities to dig up the body to conduct carbon and DNA testing. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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Comment

Sometimes history is best left in the past

UrbanCompass



Here is our question for today. Should the Charles Morris House — a down-at-the-heels, 240-year-old wooden structure that once served as the headquarters of Nova Scotia's chief surveyor, but today sits, forlorn, beached and abandoned in a downtown parking lot — be resurrected and spiffed up to serve as a living memorial to the man who is credited with laying out Halifax's original streetscape (can you say Granville, Argyle, Hollis, Grafton streets et al) and property lines (including landmarks like Grand Parade and St. Paul's Church, which survive today)?

Or should this dilapidated old eyesore of a building be demolished instead, perhaps even burned to the ground as a final public acknowledgment of — and overdue mea culpa for — the reality that the self-same Charles Morris also played a role in the brutish expulsion of the Acadians.

Katie Reid votes yes to the latter. Intriguingly, Reid is the "eight-generations-removed" granddaughter of the man himself. She says her family discovered Morris family history in her grandmother's attic that shows Capt. Charles Morris took part in planning the expulsion of the Acadians, helping devise a scheme "to break their dykes, to burn the fields of crops they'd grown, to burn their homes ... Maybe they should burn down (the Morris House) instead."

Perhaps not surprisingly, Peter Delefes disagrees. The president of the Heritage Trust Society of Nova Scotia, which saved the building from the wrecker's ball in December and still hopes to see it made useful again, acknowledges Morris did play an "unfortunate" role in the expulsion.

But he notes "other important historic figures also had a hand in that whole process, but I don't think we condemn them on that basis."

Actually — and unfortunately — we've already begun to do exactly that more and more often.

Consider Edward Cornwallis. The once-deified founder of Halifax is now the subject of a persistent campaign to strip his name from public buildings, statues and even street signs because of his treatment of natives.

Perhaps it's time we stopped needing to see our historic figures in such stark either-or terms, and publicly celebrate their accomplishments while acknowledging — in equally public ways — their shortcomings. That way we can have our history and swallow it, too.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of Kings College, is the author of eight books.

Views

Sounds too good to be true – it probably is

Marketplace



Admit it — at some time in your life you've said to yourself, "I wish I was rich."

That desire is not a crime — but it may be leading people to waste their money, and time, at a weekend workshop we've been investigating.

The workshop is called "Learn to Be Rich." Ads feature Robert Kiyosaki, author of Rich Dad, Poor Dad — a bestselling financial help book. People are told they will learn valuable skills in real estate development, or how to play the stock market. But we were hearing complaints about the three-day workshops (that cost $500), so we decided to enrol in one on real estate.

The problems started within the first half-hour, where our instructor told us we weren't going to get the tools needed to get rich. Turns out, this weekend workshop was just a primer — we needed to sign up for more advanced courses. And the cost? A mere $12,000 to $45,000!

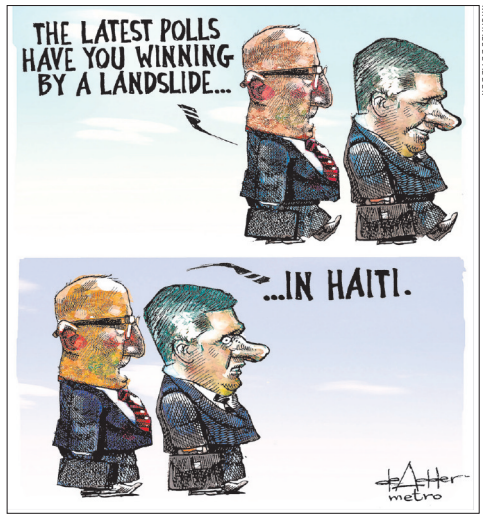
Throughout the weekend, we felt bullied and pressured to sign up for the advanced courses (where the real money was to be made). There was some instruction, but when we met with real estate lawyer Bob Aaron, he called what we were taught "bad advice," and said many techniques were "dumb."

To make matters worse, our instructor blew up at participants because not enough people took the opportunity to shell out up to $45,000 for more courses. It left us questioning what financial guru Kiyosaki thought about it all.

When we caught up with him, even Kiyosaki admitted there were problems with some of the tactics used in these workshops.

Bottom line? That age old nugget holds — if a weekend workshop on how to be rich sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Erica Johnson co-hosts Marketplace on CBC Television, which airs Fridays at 8:30 p.m.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

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iPad awaits price drop breakout

Apple Inc.'s iPad tablet may take a year to turn into a "breakout" product with mass-market appeal as consumers wait for the price to drop below $499 and for more publishers to get on board. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Toyota mum on fixing car pedals

AUTOMOTIVE Toyota has begun shipping parts to fix the faulty gas pedals that led to a still-expanding recall and an unprecedented decision to stop selling and building some of its top-selling models, but it still could not say Thursday when millions of its drivers would get their cars fixed. The world's largest automaker, bleeding millions of dollars a day in lost sales, also declined to say where the parts are going — to plants so production can start again or to dealers so they can start fixing cars. Amid the uncertainty, the recall grew wider. Toyota expanded the recall beyond an initial 2.3 million vehicles in the U.S. and 270,000 in Canada and said it would recall an untold number in Europe

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Singapore **Sales grounded**



WONG MAYE-E/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jetstar CEO Bruce Buchanan speaks during the Low Cost Airline Conference Thursday in Singapore. International air traffic suffered its worst post-war decline last year amid the worst recession since the Great Depression, the industry said Wednesday.

Doubts cast on big employment pickup

Surveys and methodologies show great disparity

A new Statistics Canada employment survey has cast a cloud over its previously announced large pickup in jobs in November.

The delayed survey of industry released Thursday found that employers shed 33,800 net jobs in November.

Last month, Statistics Canada, reporting on a survey of Canadian households, found employers added 111,000 jobs in November — a number that shocked many economists and seemed to signal the advent of a strong economic rebound.

That data indicated an actual net gain of 79,000 jobs because of a drop in the number of self-employed. This is the second time in four months that the two surveys — which use different methodologies — have shown such a pronounced disparity.

Economists say that over time the two surveys even out, but some suggest that the industry estimate likely more accurately reflects the current underlying weakness in Canada's labour market. The industry survey also most closely resembles the U.S. nonfarm payroll data used to calculate unemployment.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scarcity remains

- Another sign that good jobs are still scarce is that average employee weekly earnings rose a mere 1.3 per cent in November from a year earlier, just barely above inflation.

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

Huge jump in Microsoft's earnings lead the way for a wider computer industry rebound. Scan this code for the story.

Business in brief

PURCHASE A group of homeowners and local businesspeople have teamed up to buy the Panorama Mountain Village ski resort in the B.C. Rockies south of Kootenay National park from financially troubled Intrawest. Intrawest is owned by private equity firm Fortress Investment Group, which took on massive debt to buy it for $3.1 billion. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Service Canada

Smartphones boost Nokia's bottom line
Nokia Corp. said strong sales of smartphones and lower costs helped profits rise 65 per cent in the fourth quarter despite a drop in revenue. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Saskatchewan to lead growth in 2010: CIBC

Nova Scotia may fall below national average

Saskatchewan will lead other provinces in economic growth this year, thanks to a rebound in the oil, potash, agriculture and uranium sectors, CIBC World Markets says in a report released Thursday.

CIBC estimates Saskatchewan's economic output will grow 3.0 per cent in 2010 and 4.1 per cent in 2011. That's well ahead of CIBC's estimate for Canada's overall growth this year, projected to be only 2.3 per cent above last year.

"The West will reap the benefits of reinvigorated Asia-Pacific growth," says economist Warren Lovely in CIBC's latest Economic Insights report. "Oil, potash, agriculture and uranium sectors are again in demand."

CIBC projects that British Columbia will have the second-fastest growing provincial economy this year at 2.8 per cent, followed by Newfoundland and Labrador at 2.6 per cent.

The other Top 5 provinces this year will be Alberta and Ontario, tied at 2.4 per cent growth.

Quebec and the three Maritimes provinces will lag other provinces. P.E.I. will have the slowest expansion at 1.8 per cent, with Nova Scotia growing at 2.1 per cent and the provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec tied at 2.2 per cent — one percentage point below Canada's projected 2010 GDP growth. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Looking at 2011

- For next year, CIBC expects Alberta to surpass Saskatchewan to lead the country in growth, with their economies growing by 4.2 per cent and 4.1 per cent.

Ford earns first profit in four years

AUTOS Ford Motor Co. says it made $2.7 billion US in 2009, its first annual profit in four years.

The automaker says it benefited from cost-cutting, debt reduction and popular cars and trucks like the Ford Fusion sedan and Escape SUV. Ford also says it is enjoying customer goodwill for avoiding bankruptcy and refusing aid from the U.S. government.

Ford's net income of 86 cents per share rose from the year before, when it lost a record $14.6 billion.

In the fourth quarter, Ford says it earned $868 million, or 25 cents per share. That is up $6.8 billion from a year earlier.

Ford, which gained market share despite the economic downturn, says it expects to be profitable next year as well.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

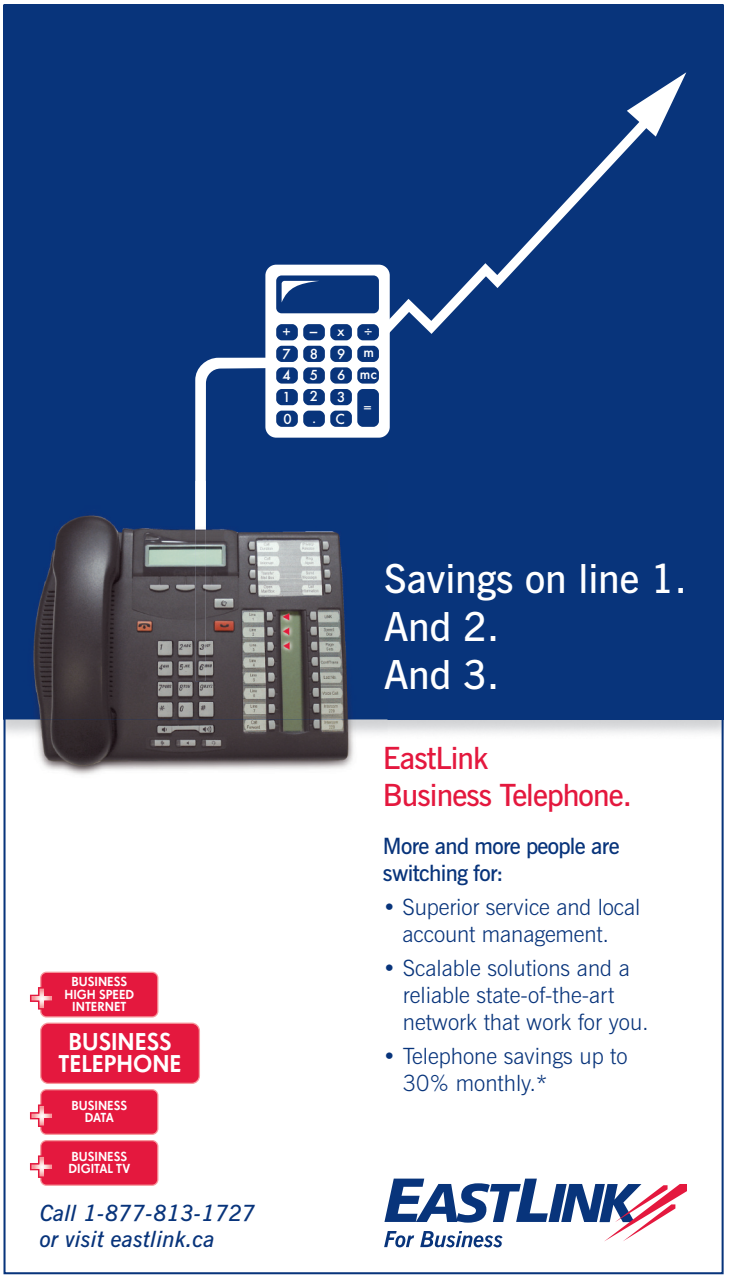


DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ford Motor Co. said Thursday it made $2.7 billion US in 2009, its first annual profit in four years.





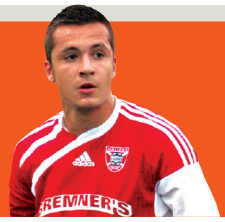


* Approximate monthly savings based on a comparison of standalone DID, PRI, and Centrex service compared to Bell Aliant's standalone services. All information deemed to be correct at time of publication and subject to change. Any changes will be updated and accessible at eastlink.ca. Call for availability.

Lions lose slugfest to Capitals

The Halifax Lions were outgunned 10-6 by the Summerside Western Capitals in Maritime Junior A Hockey League play on Thursday night at the Forum. Lions forward Brendan Taylor had a goal and three assists. METRO HALIFAX

Sports



Gaudet on Canadian roster

Bayside midfielder Derek Gaudet will be on Canada's senior men's national soccer roster for a friendly against host Jamaica on Jan. 31 in Kingston. He is currently training with the team at a camp in Fort Lauderdale, Fla. METRO HALIFAX

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Rainmen drop close one

Halifax came close against Puerto Rico, but lost 108-101

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Halifax Rainmen gave the Puerto Rico Capitanes their toughest test yet, but fell just short.

The Rainmen slugged it out with the best team in the Premier Basketball League on Thursday night in Arecibo, Puerto Rico, but saw their five-game winning streak come to an abrupt halt with a 108-101 loss to the unbeaten Capitanes.

It matched the 7-0 Capitanes' smallest margin of victory all year.

"It was a four-minute basketball game and we couldn't get the stops that were required," said Rainmen head coach Les Berry. "They executed well in crunch time and we were unsuccessful in our efforts to do a better job defensively."

The Rainmen, who were without star Eric Crookshank, received a tremendous spark from their bench once again, staying in the game in the second half with a game-high 24 points from Jevohn Shepherd and 20 from Adris DeLeon.

They led 90-86 with 6:30 remaining but the Capitanes grabbed the lead a minute later. It was a two-point game until the final 92 seconds, when the Capitanes stole the ball from Gary Ervin and scored on a fast break to make it 103-99. Halifax was forced to foul and Puerto Rico widened the gap.

"It was a close game right down until the last minute and we just didn't execute defensively," Berry said.

One bright spot was continued strong play from Halifax's bench. Shepherd and DeLeon, among others, pulled them back from a 13-point deficit early in the second half.

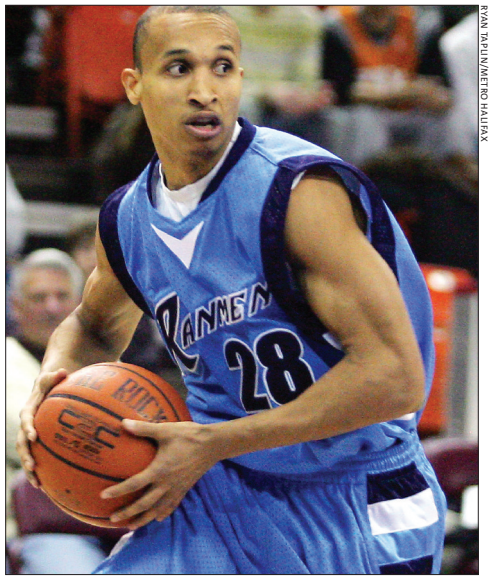
"Our bench is playing unbelievable," Berry said. "They deserve more playing time. That's the problem. We've got to find that energy from our starters in crunch time."

> **"It was a close game right down until the last minute and we just didn't execute defensively."**
> Les Berry, head coach

The Rainmen, 5-2, have another big test on Sunday. The unbeaten Rochester RazorSharks (5-0) — winners of two straight PBL titles — visit the Metro Centre at 2 p.m.

"What a week," Berry said. "We get to test ourselves again against another quality opponent, and someone we have to beat if we want to be a championship team in this league."

For more Rainmen coverage on Twitter follow: @metrorainmen



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Adris DeLeon scored 20 points for the Rainmen on Thursday.

High-scoring Stanley joins Halifax

SIGNING The Halifax Rainmen have bolstered their roster with one of the Premier Basketball League's top scorers.

The Rainmen cut ties with recently-acquired forward Marlowe Currie on Thursday — before he even played a game — and signed Cameron Stanley, ninth in PBL scoring with the Buffalo Stampede with 21.3 points per game.

The six-foot-seven inch forward was unhappy with the Stampede and negotiated his release earlier this week.

"We were interested in him at the beginning of the year and we kind of waited too long to make a decision and we lost him to Buffalo," said Rainmen owner Andre Levingston.

"His agent called and said, 'Are you interested in Cameron Stanley?' And I said, 'I'll take him — yesterday.'"

Levingston called Stanley an "athletic scorer."

Currie couldn't get his passport so the Rainmen voided last week's trade with the Manchester Millrats, getting back their 2011 second-round draft choice and "other considerations."

Dartmouth's McConnery to open tourney against Quebec

CURLING Dartmouth's Nancy McConnery opens the Scotties Tournament of Hearts Canadian women's curling championship on Saturday with a pair of games in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

McConnery, who is competing in her fifth career Scotties and is making her second straight trip to the event, faces Quebec in the opening draw at 4 p.m. before going up against the Northwest-Yukon territories at 8:30 p.m.

Her rink, featuring third Jennifer Crouse, second Sheena Gilman, lead Jill Thomas and alternate Kelly MacIntosh, won its second straight provincial title with a victory over Mary-Anne Arsenault in Liverpool earlier this month.

Last year, McConnery won the provincial title with a surprising upset win over Arsenault after recovering from a torn meniscus but went 2-9 at the national tournament.



METRO HALIFAX FILE PHOTO

Nancy McConnery

Defending champion Jennifer Jones of Manitoba is the obvious favourite at the event as Team Canada.

The final is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 7, at 3:30 p.m. METRO HALIFAX

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SCANLIFE

Despite being everything the Olympics wants these days, Canadian extreme-skiing champ Sarah Burke will be on the sidelines in Vancouver. Scan this code for the story.

SCOREBOARD

PBL

	W	L	PCT	GB
Puerto Rico	7	0	1.000	—
Rochester	5	0	1.000	1
HALIFAX	**5**	**2**	**.714**	**2**
Lawton-Fort Sill	4	2	.667	2.5
Manchester	2	4	.333	4.5
Maryland	2	5	.285	5
Buffalo	1	4	.200	5
Vermont	0	4	.000	5.5
Quebec	1	5	.167	5.5

SUNDAY
Rochester at HALIFAX, 2 p.m.

Road trip takes Herd to Quebec

MOOSEHEADS The Halifax Mooseheads, coming off a 6-5 shootout win over the Lewiston Maineiacs on Wednesday night, continue a three-game road trip on the weekend in Quebec.

The Mooseheads, last with a 11-35-4 record, visit the Quebec Remparts (29-14-7) on Friday at 8 p.m. and the Shawinigan Cataractes (23-20-7) on Saturday at 5 p.m.

The Mainieacs currently hold down the QMJHL's final playoff spot, 11 points ahead of the Mooseheads. METRO HALIFAX

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Giambi signs with Rockies
The Colorado Rockies have finalized a one-year deal to bring Jason Giambi back to Denver to back up Todd Helton at first base. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murray one win from title

TENNIS There he was, mouth agape, roaring like a Highlands warrior in full battle cry in Braveheart.

The force from Andy Murray's lungs seemed to add heft to the forehand winner he hurled down the line. The match turned there — in the fifth game of the second set — and it would not be long before the 22-year-old Scot was on his way to the Australian Open final.

After dropping serve twice in the opening set to Croatia's Marin Cilic, Murray recovered to win the semifinal 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 and reach his second Grand Slam final.


Andy Murray

"It was really important because I don't want to say the match was slipping away from me, but the momentum was definitely with him," Murray said.

Now, with only top-ranked Roger Federer or Jo-Wilfried Tsonga ahead, he is one win from breaking a drought for British men at the four majors that dates to Fred Perry's Wimbledon victory in 1936.

That's a lot of pressure on Murray. It proved too much for the likes of Tim Henman, John Lloyd and others. Murray is the first British man to reach two Grand Slam finals in the Open era and the first to reach the Australian Open final since Lloyd in 1977. He will watch Friday night's semifinal between Federer, a three-time Australian champ, and Tsonga. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Despite being everything the Olympics wants these days, Canadian extreme-skiing champ Sarah Burke will be on the sidelines in Vancouver. Scan this code for the story.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Ottawa 4 Pittsburgh 1
Carolina 4 N.Y. Islanders 1
Los Angeles 4 Columbus 1
Atlanta 4 Philadelphia 3
Minnesota 1 Colorado 0
Calgary at Phoenix
St. Louis at Edmonton
Chicago at San Jose

NBA

THURSDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 106 New York 104
Orlando 96 Boston 94
Dallas at Phoenix

The case for Clara

Why Hughes should carry the Canadian flag

FieldofPlay
Scott Russell
metronews.ca/fieldofplay

For a country that has not always been defined by patriotism, the choice of a flag-bearer is one that most Canadians view as a sacred trust.

It's a decision not taken lightly. The person selected has to be just right.

There are many qualified athletes out there but none fits the bill better than a cyclist turned speedskater named Clara Hughes.

It's awfully hard to argue against her.

Hughes transcends statistics and accomplishments on the field of play.

Based on the fact that she is a five-time Olympian and the winner of five medals, as well as being the only Canadian to have ascended the podium at both the Winter and Summer Games, Hughes soars above most of the rest.

Her credentials as an athlete are beyond question.

As a human being who reflects Canada, Clara Hughes is more than distinguished.

She is a native of Winnipeg, who lives in Quebec and is fluent in both of the country's official languages. That has to count for something. Less tangible, but equally striking, is this 37-year-old woman's commitment to the Olympic movement and all it entails as well as the responsibility it demands.

As an ambassador of the humanitarian organization Right to Play, Hughes has devoted her time and money to ensure that the world's most disadvantaged children are positively affected by sport.



Clara Hughes

In short, she represents the most elusive of all things — hope.

When asked recently to assess the meaning of being Canadian, Hughes responded by forwarding an essay she had written on the occasion of the nation's birthday.

"Racing through many of the areas where, historically speaking, Canada fought for freedom held a lot of weight," she wrote of her cycling training in Europe.

"As a young person, it made me see that my country was indeed a special place."

Clara Hughes understands that being Canadian is a privilege and a way of living that conjures up strength. She discovered this on the start line of her first Olympic cycling race in Atlanta in 1996.

"It was an energy that I had never felt before," she admitted.

"The mythology of the Olympics combined with that Maple Leaf on my back gave me a feeling of limitless possibilities. On that day I had all of Canada inside of me."

Clara Hughes is what Canada needs in a flag-bearer.

She's someone for whom a country's expectations are never a burden but rather a way to be empowered.

Scott Russell is the Host of CBC Sports Weekend seen Saturday afternoons. He has covered professional and amateur sports including nine Olympic games and numerous world championships.

Serena stands in the way of Henin's storybook finish at Australian Open

TENNIS Even Serena Williams likes the story of Justine Henin's comeback.

It's an "amazing" tale, Williams said.

Only two tournaments into her return from a 20-month retirement, Henin has made it all the way to the Australian Open final. Her only obstacle to a happy ending Saturday is Williams.

"Justine hasn't been gone that long, but it's still a good story," said Williams, who has a long and intense rivalry with Henin that has never included a Grand Slam final.

The top-ranked Williams and the former No. 1 Henin have played 13 times, including six Grand Slam showdowns that went as far as only the semifinals. Serena holds a 7-6 edge in their overall matchups. In Grand Slams, Henin leads 4-2.


"We bring out the best game in each other. I think that we both just play our hearts out. I think that's what creates a good rivalry."
Serena Williams

"We bring out the best game in each other," said the 28-year-old Williams. "I think that we both just play our hearts out. I think that's what creates a good rivalry."

The last time Williams played a Belgian at a Grand Slam, it didn't go so well. Williams' tirade over a line call in her U.S. Open semifinal against Kim Clijsters cost her a record $82,500 US fine.

Henin is usually cautious about sounding too optimistic. But she was elated Thursday after winning her semifinal against 2008 Wimbledon semifinalist Zheng Jie 6-1, 6-0. The match lasted 51 minutes and was the most lopsided semifinal at the Australian Open since Chris Evert beat Andrea Jaeger by the same score in 1982.

"I'm aware that this is extraordinary," the 27-year-old Henin said. "I never would have thought that when I got on the plane I would be here in the final of the Australian Open." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Weir ditches fur

American figure skater Johnny Weir is replacing the fox on one of his costumes with faux fur after he and his costume designer were targeted by an animal rights group. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vancouver Games

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

On a collision course

Traditional favourites Canada, U.S. expected to play for gold

Four years ago, Sweden rocked the women's hockey world by upsetting the United States in the semifinals at the Turin Olympics.

But don't expect a repeat in Vancouver.

While Finland and Sweden appear to be closing the gap between the North Americans and Scandinavians, the traditional world order in women's hockey will likely be re-established at the 2010 Games.

The Canadian and American hockey federations have put the full weight of their resources behind their Olympic teams and their preparation surpasses any other country.

For that reason, defending champion Canada and the U.S. are expected to meet for the gold medal Feb. 25 at Canada Hockey Place.

On the web

Learn more about the Canadian roster in an interactive profile at **metronews.ca/sports**

Sweden's semifinal win in Turin marked the first time Canada and the U.S. didn't meet in an Olympic or world championship final. Canada defeated the Swedes 4-1 for gold.

The Americans were ill-prepared in 2006. The players did not practise or play as many games together as they had for the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City. It showed.

The U.S. didn't skimp on preparation this time. Non-college players spent all of last winter together in Blaine, Minn. They were joined in August by collegiate players taking the school year off to play in the Olympics.

The U.S. has been the dominant country heading into the Games after winning back-to-back world championships for the first time. Only recently has Canada, winner of two straight Olympic gold medals, regained the upper hand against their American rivals with a 7-3 record in exhibition and tournament games since Aug. 1.

When women's hockey made its Olympic debut in Nagano, Japan in 1998, the U.S. won the first Olympic gold medal. Four years later, Canada took the gold in Salt Lake.

The U.S. aims to beat the Canadians on their home soil this time.

"We're not in this to finish second," says U.S. head coach Mark Johnson.

On the other side of the rivalry is Canada's Melody Davidson of Oyen, Alta. She was the only female head coach at the 2006 Olympics and remains so in 2010.

The queen of preparation, Davidson left nothing to chance in 2006. No country was as ready as Canada and she's kept the same approach for 2010.

By the time the Canadians open against Slovakia on Feb. 13, they will have played 55 games against local men's midget triple-A teams and women's international squads.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



PHILLIP MACCALLUM/GETTY IMAGES

Hayley Wickenheiser of Team Canada skates during a game against Team USA at Scotiabank Place on Jan. 1 in Ottawa.

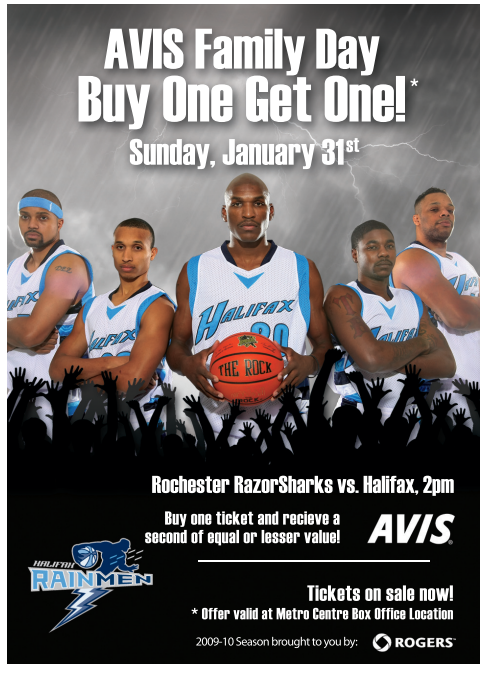


Vancouver Games in brief

MONEY Bilked out of more than $7,300 US in a Vancouver Olympic home rental scam, U.S. bobsledder Steve Mesler's family and friends are getting their money back. Procter& Gamble said Thursday it will cover the group's losses, a gesture that Mesler said left him and his family "overwhelmed."

QUAD Canada's Patrick Chan has decided to shelve the quad jump for the Vancouver Olympics. The 19-year-old from Toronto had been cultivating the four-rotational jump over the past couple of months, but has never done one in competition and said attempting it at the Games would be too risky.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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Movies&Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

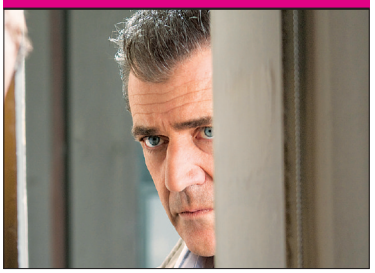
Movies

‘Extreme’ emotion Pg 22



Channing Tatum talks to Metro about opening up his emotional side in the new Nicholas Sparks adaptation, Dear John.

Movies Pg 24



Mel Gibson is back on the Edge of Darkness.

Alan Cross Pg 26



Check out the musical history of mobile devices.

Television Pg 28



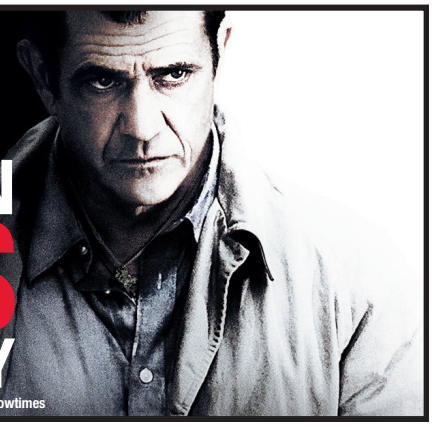
Leno just wants to erase the drama of the last six months.

“A THRILL RIDE!”
Mark S. Allen, *CBS-TV*

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At a glance
When in Rome ⊕½,
Edge of Darkness ⊕⊕⊕⊕, High Life ⊕⊕⊕

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Tatum, all raw and naked

Heartthrob digs deep for Dear John role

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Movie **feature**

Channing Tatum has worked in his fair share of genres, from indie films (A Guide to Recognizing Your Saints) to dance flicks (Step Up) to blockbusters (G.I. Joe). In his latest, Dear John, the Alabama native takes on a heavy Nicholas Sparks love story under the direction of Lasse Hallstrom, who's no stranger to pulling breakthrough performances out of young actors.

"Lasse's a beast," Tatum says of his Swedish director.

"He has an allergic reaction to anything that's false. Even down to wardrobe. You don't argue. But acting-wise, he really gives you freedom. It's nerve-wracking and it makes you work harder."

Tatum remembers Hallstrom encouraging him to open up the way Leonardo DiCaprio did for What's Eating Gilbert Grape? That role led to DiCaprio's first Oscar nomination.

"He's says he's going to give you the same freedom he gave Leo in Gilbert Grape," Tatums says. "I had no idea what that meant. I was like, 'So you want me to be mentally challenged?'"

Part of preparing for Dear John, in which Tatum plays a young soldier torn between true love and duty, involved getting to know some actual Special Forces soldiers, many of whom appeared as extras in the film.

"They are gun-slingers," Tatum says of the soldiers he met. "They want to go. They view it as, like, recess. They get to go blow stuff up every day. When you get them away from their military stuff, they're just normal kids that are just a little crazier than most. And they're all insanely intelligent as well."

Tatum himself is a fan of blowing stuff up, but he admits acting in action films isn't quite the same as actually working with explosives.

"The blowing up stuff is fun, but they never let the actors be around that stuff. That's the stunt guys," he says.

That's why he prefers dramatic work like Dear John, he insists.

"Doing the emotional side is such a more extreme way to experience a film and to experience a character," he says.

"It's raw — naked at times. It's kind of scary because acting is one of the one jobs where you never really know if you got it right."

Dear John opens next week



Channing Tatum and Amanda Seyfried pair up in Dear John.

On the web

- For trailers, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies



Brisk Life high on actors

High **Life**

Director:
Stars: Timothy Olyphant
Classification: STC
Rating: ⊕⊕⊕

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

REVIEW The best joke in High Life is also the first, as the film's main character — a washed-out parolee/morphine addict played by Timothy Olyphant — informs us via voice-over that, as far back as he could remember, he had always wanted to be a lawyer.

It's a winking paraphrase of Ray Liotta's scene-setting reminiscence in Goodfellas, and while Gary Yates' Winnipeg-set period thriller isn't a patch on Martin Scorcese's 1990 classic, it does reiterate one of its key themes: being a criminal is especially difficult when you're high as a kite.

Dick's multi-part plan to defraud a series of ATM machines (brand new as of the film's 1983 setting) is actually pretty clever, but populating his crew with three fellow junkies — including his brutal former cellmate (Stephen McIntyre) and a callow ladies' man he meets at an addiction support group (Rossif Sutherland) — is a less-than-genius move.

Yates, who showed a deft touch in the grafter tale Seven Times Lucky, does well in opening up Lee McDougall's award-winning play for the screen, aided in so small part by his game cast.

Olyphant gives a nicely straightforward performance, ceding most of the best lines to the glowering McIntyre.

Seasoned viewers will likely predict at least a few of the film's second-half twists, but High Life understands that it's best to quit while you're ahead: its 78-minute running time leaves a winning impression of briskness.



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Clint an American fave: Poll

Clint Eastwood, everyone's favourite bounty hunter / maverick cop / grumpy old man, has knocked Denzel Washington from his three-year perch as America's favourite star, this year's Harris Poll reveals. **EMPIREONLINE.COM**

Reel Time

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Edge of Darkness a taut thriller



Mel Gibson plays a detective trying to solve his daughter's murder in Edge of Darkness.

Edge of Darkness
Director: Martin Campbell
Stars: Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Classification: 14A
Rating: ●●●½

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

Edge of Darkness is surprisingly satisfying, a small, taut thriller with enough fury and bursts of sudden violence to draw plenty of comparisons to last year's Taken.

While trying to solve his daughter's murder, an aging detective (Mel Gibson) stumbles into a vast corporate and government conspiracy, mucking things up enough for the power players to call in a high-priced clean-up man (Ray Winstone).

The driving force is Gibson, in a lead role for the first time since 2002's Signs. His features lend themselves perfectly to an emotionally stunted man dealing with dueling swells of grief and rage.

This isn't really anything new for Gibson, who's been playing characters out for vengeance since Mad Max.

But Edge of Darkness does a great job of illustrating why he keeps coming back to these types of damaged, possessed men.

The only real misstep in the film is Gibson's Boston accent, which slips freely between a Good Will Hunting caricature and completely nonexistent. And the screen could've benefited from a bit more time with Winstone's mysterious fixer, but what scenes he does occupy are some of the best in the movie.

• For a trailer of Edge of Darkness, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies.



It's La Dolce vapid in Rome

When In Rome
Director: Mark Steven Johnson
Stars: Kristen Bell, Josh Duhamel
Classification: PG
Rating: ●½

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada



Josh Duhamel and Kristen Bell star in When In Rome.

REVIEW When in Rome, the saying goes, do as the Romans do. But Mark Steven Johnson's comedy seems content merely to ape the behaviour of a zillion light romantic farces before it. The idea of an uptight career woman (in this case, Veronica Mars' Kristen Bell) letting her hair down in the face of true love is at least as old — and dusty — as the Colisseum.

Ah, but there's a magic-realist twist: Pulling bridesmaid duty at her sister's wedding in the old country, Bell meets a dashing dude (Josh Duhamel), gets miffed when she sees him with another woman, does a drunken Dolce Vita style vamp in a piazza fountain and plucks out five coins, invoking the wrath of some ancient love god — or hack screenwriters — and turning their original owners into comically love-struck stalker-suitors (a motley quartet numbering John Heder, Danny DeVito, Will Arnett and Dax Sheppard, the latter in amusing Zolander-lite mode).

As premises go, this falls somewhere between "strained" and "really silly," but what's really odd about When in Rome is its uncertainty of tone. One the one hand, Johnson seems to be going for a gentle, fairy-tale atmosphere — which is appropriate since the film has been produced by Disney — but there are also too many wink-wink innuendoes for a family audience. Johnson also attempts some weak hipster pandering by putting Heder in a scene with his Napoleon Dynamite sidekick Efren Ramirez (a.k.a. Pedro). It's a desperate stab for cred in a movie that doesn't have much to speak of beyond cameos by Angelica Huston and Shaquille O'Neal.

• For a trailer of When In Rome, screen times and photos, visit metronews.ca/movies.

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

Screen Times

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 29 TO THURS., FEB. 5. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

HALIFAX

BAYERS LAKE
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sat 11:30-2:30-6:25 Dolby Stereo Sun 11:30-2:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 1:30-4-6:40
Avatar 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:45-12:30-3:15-4:30-7:30-10:30 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 11:45-12:30-3:15-4:30-8:30-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Wed 12:30-1-4:30-5-8:30-9 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:30-1-4:30-5-8:30
The Blind Side (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 3:40-6:50-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 3:40-6:50
The Book of Eli (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-7:40-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:45-3:45-7:10-10:05
Creation (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 3:55-6:45-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-6:45-9:40
Daybreakers (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sat 9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 9:30
Edge of Darkness (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:15-10:10
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-4-7:20-10:10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:20-4-7:15-10:10
It's Complicated (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:05-9:55
Leap Year (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:35-10:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:25-9:50
Legion (14) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:40-4:50-7:20-10:15 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:40-4:50-7:20-10:15
The Lovely Bones (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 12:15-3-6:20-9:35
The Princess and the Frog (G) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:40-9:45 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 12:50-3:35-6:30-9:45
The Spy Next Door (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 11:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:35
Tooth Fairy (G) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:45-3:35-7:20-9:25 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-4:10-6:50-9:25
Up in the Air (14) Dolby Stereo Fri-Thu 2-4:40-7:45-10:20
When in Rome (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1-4-6:35-9:50 Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:15-4:15-6:50-9:40
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Dolby Stereo, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 8

IMAX
190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800

Avatar: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11-2:30-6:30-10 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Sun 11-2:30-8 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 12-4-8

OXFORD THEATRE
6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488

Schindler's List (STC) SDDS Digital Sun 1
A Single Man (STC) Fri 7:9:15 Sat 4:30-7:9:15 SDDS Digital Sun 4:45-7:15-9:30 Mon-Thu 7:9:15

PARK LANE
5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860

Bad Lieutenant: Port of Call New Orleans (14) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:30
The Book of Eli (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:20-4-7-9:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4-7-9:40
Broken Embraces (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:20-3:20-6:20-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:35-6:20-9:10
Darkman (18) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:45
Edge of Darkness (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:20-11:50 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 12:50-3:40-6:40-9:20 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:20
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 1:3:45-6:30-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Tue 3:45-6:30-9 Stadium Seating Wed 3:45-9:15 Stadium Seating Thu 3:45-6:30-9
The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 11:40
Leap Year (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 9:25
Legion (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:30-4:10-7:20-9:55-11:59 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 1:30-4:10-7:20-9:55 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 4:10-7:20-9:55
The Lovely Bones (STC) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:30-3:30-6:50 Stadium Seating Sun 12:30-3:30-6:50-9:50 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:30-6:50-9:50
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 12:40-3:35-6:35 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:35-6:35
When in Rome (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:30-11:45 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 1:10-3:50-7:10-9:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:50-7:10-9:30

LOWER SACKVILLE

LOWER SACKVILLE
760 Sackville Dr., Downsview Plaza
902-869-2022

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1
Edge of Darkness (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:45-9:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:15 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 6:45-9:15
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Sat 1:15-3:45-7:10-9:40 Stadium Seating Sun 1:15-3:45-6:30-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30-9
It's Complicated (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:10 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 1:25-4-6:40-9:10 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9:10
Legion (14) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 7:20-9:45 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat 1:20-4:10-7:20-9:45 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 1:20-4:10-7:9:25 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7-9:25
The Lovely Bones (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:20-9:15 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3:15-6:20-9:15 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:20-9:15
Tooth Fairy (G) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 6:50-9 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4-6:50-9 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-9
When in Rome (STC) Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 7-9:20 Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 1:50-4:15-7-9:20 Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 7-9:20



Avatar continues to go strong at theatres.





Extraordinary Measures stars Brendan Fraser.

DARTMOUTH

DARTMOUTH CROSSING
145 Shubie Dr., Dartmouth Crossing
902-481-3251

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1:35-4:20-7:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 11:20-1:35-4:20-7:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:35-4:20-7:35
Avatar 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 2-3-6:15-7:45-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 11-12:15-2:30-4-6:15-7:45-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 11-12:15-3-4-6:15-7:30-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 2-3-7:30-8
The Book of Eli (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-7:05-9:55
Edge of Darkness (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 1:15-3:55-6:50-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:10-3:15-6:40-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 1:15-3:55-6:50-9:45
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 1:25-4:15-7:20-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 1:25-4:15-7:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7:20-10:05
It's Complicated (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1-3:40-6:40-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:40-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1-3:40-6:40-9:25
Leap Year (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri-Sun 10:05 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 9:40
Legion (14) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 1:05-4:10-7:15-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 1:05-4:10-6:40-10:10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:05-4:10-7:15-10
The Lovely Bones (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1-3:55-6:55-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat 12-3:20-6:55-10:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sun 12-3:20-6:55-9:50 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1-3:55-6:55-9:50
The Princess and the Frog (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 1 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 12:25 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1
Sherlock Holmes (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Fri 3:20-6:25-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3-6:25-9:35 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 3:20-6:25-9:35
Tooth Fairy (G) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri 1:30-4-6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sat-Sun 12:20-3:25-6:30-9:20 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 1:30-4-6:30-9:20
When in Rome (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sun 2-4:30-7:25-10 Dolby Stereo Digital, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon-Thu 2-4:30-7:25-9:40
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 9

TRURO

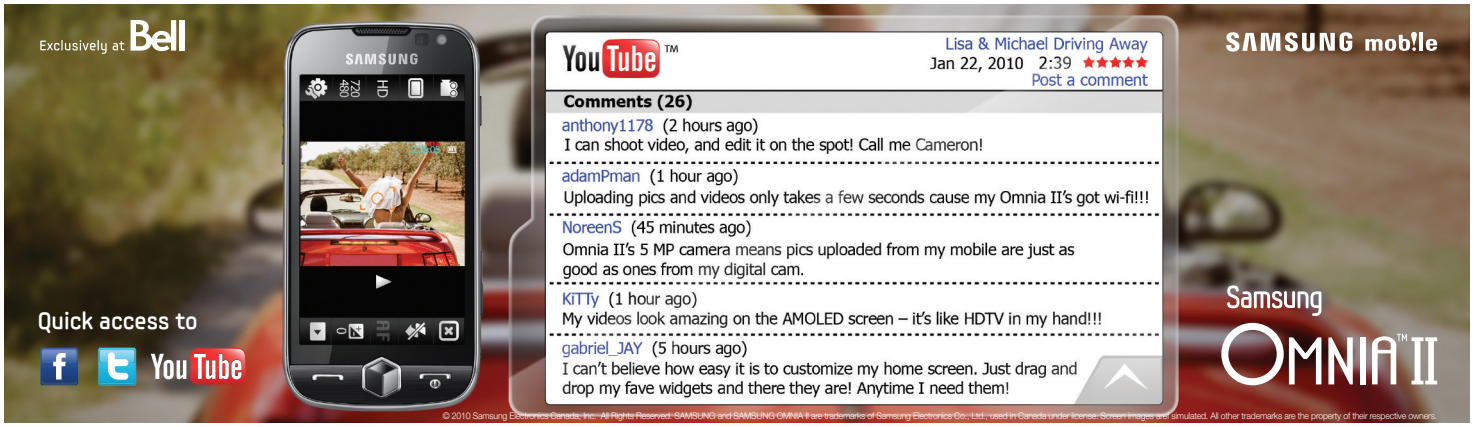
TRURO
20 Treaty Trail, Millbrook
902-895-8020

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Stadium Seating Fri 7:10 Stadium Seating Sat 2:40-7:10 Stadium Seating Sun 2:40-6:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:30
Avatar (PG) Stadium Seating Fri 7:30 Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 2:30-7:30 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 7
Edge of Darkness (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:40-9:15 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:10-6:40-9:15 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:10-6:10-8:35 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:10-8:35
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 9:25 Stadium Seating Sun-Thu 8:25
Legion (14) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 7:20-9:35 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:50-7:20-9:35 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:50-6:40-9 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:40-9
The Lovely Bones (STC) Stadium Seating Fri 6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sat 2-6:30-9:20 Stadium Seating Sun 2-6-8:40 Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6-8:40
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 6:50-9:05 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat 2:20-6:50-9:05 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sun 2:20-6:20-8:30 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:20-8:30
When in Rome (STC) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri 7-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Sat-Sun 3-7-9:10 No Passes, Stadium Seating Mon-Thu 6:50-8:50

BRIDGEWATER

BRIDGEWATER
349 Lahave St., 902-527-4020

Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (G) Sat-Sun 2
Avatar (PG) Fri 7:30 Sat 2:10-7:30 Sun 2:10-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45
Edge of Darkness (STC) No Passes Fri 7-9:40 No Passes Sat 2:20-7-9:40 No Passes Sun 2:20-6:15-8:55 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:15-8:55
Extraordinary Measures (PG) Fri-Sat 7:10-9:50 Sun-Mon 6:25-9:05 Tue-Wed 9:05 Thu 6:25-9:05
Legion (14) No Passes Fri 6:40-9:05 No Passes Sat 2:15-6:40-9:05 No Passes Sun 2:15-5:55-8:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:55-8:20
The Lovely Bones (STC) Fri 6:50-9:45 Sat 2:40-6:50-9:45 Sun 2:40-6:05-9 Mon-Thu 6:05-9
Tooth Fairy (G) No Passes Fri 6:30-8:55 No Passes Sat 2:30-6:30-8:55 No Passes Sun 2:30-5:45-8:10 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:45-8:10
When in Rome (STC) No Passes Fri 7:20-9:35 No Passes Sat 2:45-7:20-9:35 No Passes Sun 2:45-6:35-8:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:35-8:50





Top albums on the Billboard 200

1. Hope For Haiti Now, Various Artists; 2. I Dreamed a Dream, Susan Boyle; 3. The Fame, Lady Gaga; 4. Transference, Spoon; 5. 2010 Grammy Nominees, Various Artists. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Music

The death of romance

Sour relationships colour new album from Los Campesinos!

CAM LINDSAY
for Metro Canada

Finding the perfect Valentine's gift for the one you love can be a difficult undertaking. Welsh indie troupe Los Campesinos! might not have the answer, however, if you're looking for the exact opposite, well, they have "the perfect late Valentine's gift for the one you loathe" (as advertised on their blog).

The seven-piece are set to release Romance Is Boring, the title track from their new album, as a single the day after Valentine's Day.

"The opportunity to put it out so close to Valentine's was far too good an opportunity to miss," admits frontman Gareth Campesinos!. "(But) it wasn't written with Valentine's in mind. I actually like Valentine's if I'm being honest, I guess. It's probably the day of the year where it's most acceptable to get blind drunk and make an ill-advised declaration of love, and that's my specialty."



Romance Is Boring is the new album from Los Campesinos!

"(Valentine's Day is) probably the day of the year where it's most acceptable to get blind drunk and make an ill-advised declaration of love, and that's my specialty."
Gareth Campesinos!

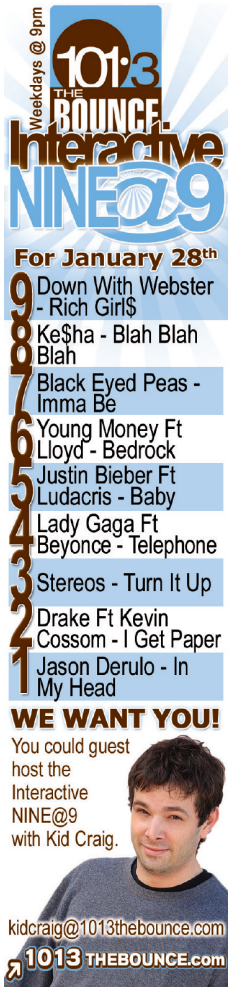
On the band's third album, Gareth hits his literary stride with those signature declarations and biting slogans, but also digs deeper to present a more complicated take on soured relationships and mortality. You can practically call him an expert.

"There have been plenty of those subjects over the past couple of records, but perhaps on this occasion it's a more focused vision," he explains. "I'm 24 years old, so over the past four years being in the band I've had some of my most formative experiences, since leaving the cradle of full-time education. I've changed untold amounts as a person, and for better, for worse, this is where I'm at now."

After the double shot of 2008's Hold On Now, Youngster… and We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed, Romance Is Boring finds the band even more fertile sonically. The songs sound bigger, not to mention more intricate, having expanded their scrappy, glockenspiel-assisted lo-fi with spasmodic noise eruptions (Plan A), angular waltzing (Who Fell Asleep In) and moody electronics

Gareth has gone on the record to call it "the best record we've made by a massive stretch," but he's quick to point out how it's the band's growth that makes such a bold statement stick.

"I really like the previous two," he says with assurance. "There are issues I have with WAB, WAD, but I still think it holds up. And HON, Y … reminds me of so many overwhelming and exciting times, it just doesn't seem like me anymore. Romance Is Boring makes use of all the lessons, life and musical, that we've learnt. I guess we know how we want a Los Campesinos! album to sound now."







Event guests play with the new Apple iPad, a mobile tablet browsing device that is a cross between the iPhone and a MacBook laptop, in San Francisco, Calif., earlier this week.

How mobile devices changed the world

SoundCheck
Alan Cross
metronews.ca/soundcheck

With all the hoopla surrounding Apple this week, I thought it might be fun to look back at some of the portable media devices that rocked our world.

The Regency TR-1 (1954): At $50, it was hideously expensive for its time, but those who could afford it need never share that giant console radio in the living room with mom and dad. Teenagers were free to take their own music — this new thing called "rock 'n' roll" — with them everywhere. As a result, the TR-1 and its descendents allowed rock to launch its social, economic, artistic, political and sexual revolution.

The 8-Track (1964): Jointly developed by Ford, GM, Motorola, AMPEX and the guy behind the Lear Jet company, the 8-track meant that music fans no longer had to wait for their favourite songs to come on the radio.

The Cassette (1964): Invented at the same time, the cassette needed for tape formulations to improve to the point where it sounded as good as — and eventually better than — 8-tracks. And because it was much easier to transfer music from records to cassettes, the mixtape was born. Record labels began freaking out over home taping.

The Sony Walkman TPS-L2 (1979): Look around. See all those people who have isolated themselves from the rest of humanity by plugging into some kind of device that envelopes them in their own private bubble of sound? Before the Walkman, this kind of behavior was considered to be highly antisocial. That's why the TPS-L2 originally came with two headphone jacks.

The Diamond Multimedia Rio PMP300 (1998): Not the first MP3 player — that distinction goes to the MP3 Man from a Korean company called Sae-Han — but the one that forced the courts in America to rule that such devices were, in fact, legal. Where might we be had those judges ruled the other way?

The iPod (2001): When Steve Jobs returned to Apple, he decreed that a big part of the company's future was in something he called the "digital hub," with the perfect portable music device at its core. Some 225 million units later…

The Future (2010-?): Who knows? If there's one thing we've learned since the TR-1, it's not the device itself that's important, but what the device allows us to do and the behaviors that result. Continue to expect many unintended and unforeseen consequences.

"Who knows? If there's one thing we've learned since the TR-1, it's not the device itself that's important, but what the device allows us to do."

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com



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*For the past seven quarters; IDC, Canadian Mobile Phone Tracker Q3 2009



Mesnick to wed Malaney

The Bachelor's Jason Mesnick will wed Molly Malaney, whom he met on the 13th season of the show, on ABC March 17. The two-hour special will also feature Malaney, 24, going to dress fittings and planning the event. USMAGAZINE.COM

Television

Tarnished rep?

Leno poised to take back late night in March

Certainly Jay Leno would love to wake up to find that the last six months was just a nightmare.

That way, he'd be preparing another Tonight show monologue, not going on the national shrink's sofa across from Oprah Winfrey, as he was Thursday. He wouldn't have seen a photo of himself doctored to look battered on the cover of Entertainment Weekly, symbolizing television's biggest flop ever. And he wouldn't have heard the rough jokes with the serious subtext that he had sandbagged Conan O'Brien.

NBC is hoping that it all goes away, too. The network won't know until March 1 whether he's been permanently damaged or not by the disastrous decision to try him in prime time and the clumsy way he recovered his old job. March 1 is when Leno returns to late night, opposite David Letterman on CBS.

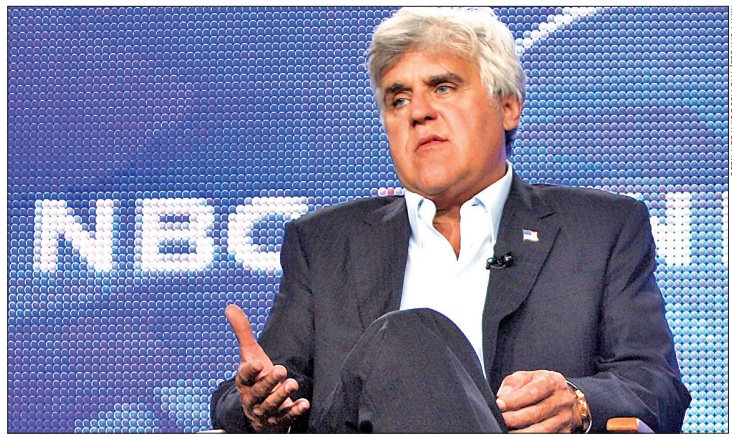
"He's going to be competitive and I think his audience is going to come back over time," says Jeff Gaspin, NBC Universal Entertainment chairman.

Except for the Winfrey interview, Leno will do little talking after his 10 p.m. EST show ends Feb. 9, making way for coverage of the Winter Olympics. NBC will promote his return to late night but in a low-key fashion since it's been only a few months that it hyped his prime time show, Gaspin said.

"We're going to do it with a little humour and we're going to do it with a little wink to the audience," he said. "We know they know what's going on."

The 10 p.m. show, cancelled because affiliates complained about its low ratings, instantly transformed Leno's public image into that of a failure after a 15-year run as the king of late-night television.

Meanwhile, his Tonight show successor, Conan O'Brien, despite being a ratings failure himself, became a folk hero when he wouldn't accept NBC's plan to move his Tonight show to 12:05 a.m. EST to accommodate Leno's shortened comedy program. Leno has been vilified for taking back a job he plainly didn't want to leave in the first place, despite promising more than five years ago that he would. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MATT SAYLES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Returning Tonight show host Jay Leno has been vilified for taking back a job he plainly didn't want to leave in the first place, despite promising more than five years ago that he would.

Talk show veteran on Oprah

- Jay Leno told Oprah Winfrey on Thursday's episode of her talk show that he thinks what happened to Conan O'Brien is "unfair." Leno also says he has "regrets" that the situation wasn't handled better — but he isn't sure what he could have done differently.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Congratulations to **Andrea Salmonson** – this month's winner of a Metro's Koolest Voter prize! Andrea can pick up her prize pack at the Kool FM offices at 3770 Kempt Road!
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†† Value of additional features based on dealer pricing. Vehicle comparison is based on 2010 Cobalt LT (1AL69/1AL37 1SA), 2010 Corolla CE (BU42EM) and 2010 Civic DX Sedan (FA1E2AEX). *** Vehicle specification and purchase price according to the information available on the manufacturer's website at time of printing. Note: Competitive Purchase Price based on MSRP less CDA & Customer Bonus (Freight Out).

You may WIN[2] an Equinox every day of the 2010 Winter Games
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For the latest information, visit us at chevrolet.ca, drop by your local Chevrolet dealer or call us at 1-800-GM-DRIVE. * $850/$2,350/$1,350 manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A reflected in the offers in this advertisement include cash credit plus $500 Gold Medal Bonus. Credit will impact the effective APR for finance customers. See your GM dealer for details. ■ $500 Gold Medal bonus is a manufacturer-to-dealer delivery credit (tax exclusive) and is reflected in offers in this advertisement. Offer available on all 2008 and 2010 Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick and GMC models and excluding all Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. † Offers apply to the cash purchase prices of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A new or demonstrator model and apply only to retail customers in the Maritimes. Freight ($1,350/$1,350/$1,350) not included. Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are available when consumers opt for a cash purchase offer. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such incentives which may result in a higher effective interest rate. ‡Financing available on approved credit only from TD Canada Trust; ask your dealer for additional information. Based on finance rates of 4.29%/4.29%/4.29% for 84/84/84 months for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 4.29%/4.29%/4.29% APR, the monthly payment is $138.03/$138.03/$138.03 for 84/84/84 months. Cost of borrowing is $1,594.52/$1,594.52/$1,594.52, total obligation $11,594.52/$11,594.52/$11,594.52. Freight of $1,350/$1,350/$1,350 included for bi-weekly payments. Bi-weekly payments based on purchase price of $14,069/$15,669/$13,299 with $0/$0/$0 down payment. †† Offers apply as indicated to the purchase of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A new or demonstrator models and apply only to retail customers in the Maritimes. Dealer order or trade may be necessary. License, insurance, registration, administration fees, tire warranty and handling (where applicable) and taxes not included. Dealers may sell for less. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers and may change without notice. See your dealer(s) for complete details. ▼ Based on Natural Resources Canada's fuel consumption ratings. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle load, how the vehicle is driven and maintained. ◆ Limited time offer. Customer must take delivery from participating dealer stock between January 12 and March 31, 2010. Offer applies to current owners/lessees of any GM vehicle; excluding 2008 MY and prior vehicles and Medium Duty Truck. Vehicle must have been registered and insured in customer's name for previous consecutive 6 months. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details.

[1] Offer valid from January 12, 2010 at 9:00:00 a.m. [PST] to February 21, 2010 at 11:59:59 p.m. [PST] (the "Contest Period"). Residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence and who possess a valid driver's license at the time of entry may enter this contest. Limit of one (1) entry per person. There are seventeen (17) Grand Prizes available to be won during the Contest Period, each consisting of the winner's choice of either a 2010 Chevrolet Equinox FWD LS (Approximate retail value: $27,345 CAD) or a 2010 GMC Terrain FWD SLE (Approximate retail value: $28,815 CAD). The Grand Prize is awarded per day for seventeen (17) days. Odds of winning depend on total number of entries received. To enter and for complete contest rules, visit www.chevrolet.ca/gold. Skill-testing question and completion of mathematical skill-testing question required. Contest open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence at the time of entry. Void where prohibited by law. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this offer in whole or in part at any time without notice. For full program details, including participant and vehicle eligibility, please visit your local Chevrolet, Buick, GMC or Pontiac dealer or visit us at www.studentbonus.ca. ¥ US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ** Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000 km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only - excludes demos, fleet, lease vehicles and Medium Duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. 1 Available at all Chevrolet, Buick, GMC dealers. No purchase necessary. While quantities last. 2 No purchase necessary. Contest runs from January 12, 2010 at 9:00:00 a.m. [PST] to February 21, 2010 at 11:59:59 p.m. [PST] (the "Contest Period"). Residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence and who possess a valid driver's license at the time of entry may enter this contest. Limit of one (1) entry per person. There are seventeen (17) Grand Prizes available to be won during the Contest Period, each consisting of the winner's choice of either a 2010 Chevrolet Equinox FWD LS (Approximate retail value: $27,345 CAD) or a 2010 GMC Terrain FWD SLE (Approximate retail value: $28,815 CAD). The Grand Prize is awarded per day for seventeen (17) days. Odds of winning depend on total number of entries received. To enter and for complete contest rules, visit www.chevrolet.ca/gold. Skill-testing question and completion of mathematical skill-testing question required. Contest open to residents of Canada who have reached the age of majority in their province or territory of residence at the time of entry. Void where prohibited by law. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate this offer in whole or in part at any time without notice. Example: $10,000 purchase price, after tax price is $11,300 ($10,000 plus $1,300 applicable taxes). After applying $1,500 credit, after tax price is $9,800 ($1,327 reduced purchase price plus $173 applicable taxes), with the $1,500 credit being the $1,327 reduction from the purchase price and the $173 reduction in taxes which would have otherwise been payable on the full purchase price. Such credit may be applied only to the purchase/finance/lease of an eligible new 2009 or 2010 GM vehicle delivered between January 12 and March 31, 2010. Offer applies to current owners/lessees of any GM vehicle; excluding 2008 MY and prior vehicles and Medium Duty Truck. Vehicle must have been registered and insured in customer's name for previous consecutive 6 months. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details.

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Lachey on Taking the Stage

It's like Fame — the movie that showcased the dreams and disappointments of high school performers — but in real life.

That's how Nick Lachey describes the second season of Taking the Stage, the reality TV show that follows high school students at The School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA) in Cincinnati as they work to break in to the entertainment industry. The show airs Thursdays at 11 p.m. on MTV.

"It's a great kind of learning ground for anyone who wants to be in entertainment and anyone who loves performing," says Lachey, the show's executive producer. "I think the school really prepares you for what the business is all about."

Lachey, a pop singer and actor, attended the school himself and knows firsthand the how an aspiring entertainer struggles to make it. After graduating from SCPA in 1992, he formed the boy band 98 Degrees and launched a successful solo career. In 2003-2005, he starred with then-wife Jessica Simpson in the MTV reality series Newlyweds: Nick and Jessica.



Nick Lachey

Other notable SCPA alumni include Sarah Jessica Parker, Carmen Electra and Lachey's brother and 98 Degrees alum, Drew.

This season's Taking the Stage follows Tyler, now a senior at SCPA and Mia, who has been trying to get her new band off the ground since graduation. We'll also meet new students — including Adam, Emily Silber, Emily Sones, Carlton and Ian — who all try to navigate their way to fame by way of high school.

The show resonates with viewers, Lachey says. "People are attracted to good performance and seeing young people follow their dreams," he says. "I think we see some of ourselves in kids."

THE ASSOCIATED PRES

FRIDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/29/10	31	31	31 ABC	News Center	World News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Supernanny (N)		Shark Tank (N)		20/20
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Law & Order (HDTV)		Law & Order: Special Victims		Comedy Now
	11	11	11 CBC	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		The Hour (N)
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium "Psych" (N)		NUMB3RS (N)
	6	6	6 CIHF	Entertainment	ET Canada	NUMB3RS "Devil Girl"		Dollhouse (N)		Shark Tank (N)		News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	etalk	Access H.	Flashpoint (DVS)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Medium "Psych" (N)		CTV News
	36	36	36 FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Dollhouse (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (N)		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News	NBC News	Access H.	Extra (N)	Law & Order (HDTV)		Dateline NBC		Jay Leno
sports	55	55	55 SCOR	HSR	Covers	Aussie Millions '09		WWE SmackDown! (HDTV)				Champ Fight
	53	53	53 TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey Toronto Maple Leafs at New Jersey Devils.					SportsCentre	
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	CSI: Miami		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds "P911"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN News	Investigates	Fish Out of	Blessings	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	*Top Secret!* ★★ (1984, Comedy) Val Kilmer.		
	37	37	37 BRVO	Emily of New Moon		Richard Margison-Opera Star		Bravo!FACT	Cover Stories	White Collar (N)		Dexter
	49	49	49 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now
	18	18	18 CNN	(6) The Situation Room With Wolf		Blitzer (N)		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Cooper 360
	38	38	38 DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)		Dirty Jobs		Man vs. Wild "Vietnam"		Machines
	34	48	48 HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home		House Hunt	Property	House	Green Homes	Location, Location, Location		House
	46	46	46 HIST	Blow Down		Ancients Behaving Badly		Nostradamus Effect		*The Sum of All Fears* (2002, Suspense)		
	17	17	17 MM	Love Court	My Date	Secret Life of American Teen		The Vampire Diaries		*8 Mile* ★★★ (2002, Drama) Eminem.		
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:40) *The Games* (1970, Drama)			*Nothing* ★ (2003, Comedy)			*The Bourne Identity* (2002, Suspense)		
	39	39	39 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Relic Hunter		*Termination Point* (2007, Suspense) Jason Priestley.				Kenny vs.
	40	40	40 SLICE	What	Wedding SOS	Rich Bride Poor Bride		Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part
	21	21	21 TLC	Dress	Dress	What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear		What Not to Wear (N)		Miss America
	22	22	22 W	House-Sell	House-Sell	Supernanny		Dine With Me	Grocery Bag	*Last Holiday* ★★ (2006, Comedy)		
	27	27	27 YTV	iCarly	To Be Indie	*Liar Liar* ★★ (1997, Comedy) Jim Carrey.				That's-Weird	Fries That?	Prank Patrol

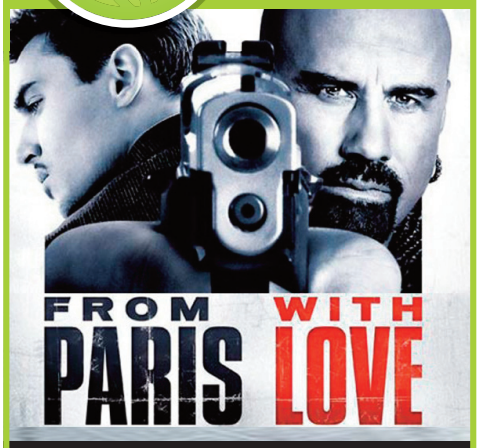
SATURDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/30/10	31	31	31 ABC	News Center	World News	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Ward Family"				Castle
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Window Opens-Ethiopia		*Fire Serpent* (2007, Science Fiction) Nicholas Brendon.				Atlantis
	11	11	11 CBC	National	Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)						NHL Hockey
	32	32	32 CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	*The Magic of Ordinary Days* (2005, Drama)				48 Hours.
	6	6	6 CIHF	The Guard "Full Circle"		*Ice Blues* (2008, Mystery) Chad Allen.				Love-Death	G-Spot	News Final (N)
	9	9	9 CJCH	W5 (N) (DVS)		*Crazy Canucks* (2005, Docudrama) Lucas Bryant.				Law & Order: Special Victims		CTV News
	36	36	36 FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News	NBC News	Access Hollywood (N)		A New Smile, a New Life		Law & Order "Doped"		Law & Order
sports	55	55	55 SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	WWE Vintage Collection		MMA Show	Cabby Unlimit	Score on NFL	Footy Show	Hockey Sat.
	53	53	53 TSN	SportsCentre		NFL Presents	Curling Scotties Tournament of Hearts. (HDTV) From Kindersley, Sask. (Live)					
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	(6) *The Green Mile* ★★★ (1999, Drama)				*Gone in Sixty Seconds* ★ (2000, Action) Nicolas Cage.				
	70	70	70 APTN	Hockey	The Mix	MYTV	Rez Tunez		Blackfly	*A Few Good Men* ★★★ (1992, Drama)		
	37	37	37 BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Spectacle: Elvis		Star Portraits	Books-Film	*Kindergarten Cop* ★★ (1990, Comedy)		
	49	49	49 COM	VIP	Bet Your Ass	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Corner Gas	Jeff Dunham	The Simpsons	South Park	John Oliver
	18	18	18 CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	38	38	38 DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Cash Cab	Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs		Verminators
	34	48	48 HGTV	Holmes on Homes		Flipping Out		Million Dollar Listing		Property	Price	Makeover
	46	46	46 HIST	Ancients Behaving Badly		Nostradamus Effect		Cities of the Underworld		*The Kingdom* ★★ (2007, Action)		
	17	17	17 MM	The Vampire Diaries		*8 Mile* ★★★ (2002, Drama) Eminem, Kim Basinger.				Muchmusic Countdown		
	206	206	206 PIX	(5:30) *A Time to Kill*		*The Chamber* ★★ (1996, Drama) Chris O'Donnell.				*The Rainmaker* ★★★ (1997, Drama)		
	39	39	39 SHOW	(5) *Click*	About a Girl	Slings and Arrows		*Odysseus and the Isle of the Mists* (2008, Fantasy)				*Heartbrk*
	40	40	40 SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of Jersey		Real Housewives of Atlanta		Real Housewives, Orange		Matchmaker
	21	21	21 TLC	What Not to Wear		Miss America: Behind		Miss America 2010 Women compete in Las Vegas.				Weddings
	22	22	22 W	Hwd 10 Best	*Four Weddings and a Funeral* ★★★ (1994, Romance-Comedy)					*Two Weeks Notice* (2002, Romance-Comedy)		
	27	27	27 YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Zeke's Pad	Prank Patrol	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		That's-Weird	Prank Patrol	Survive This

SUNDAY

HA	H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 1/31/10	31	31	31 ABC	News Center	World News	Amer. Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home		Desperate Housewives		Brothers
	7	7	7 ASN	The Road to Avonlea		TMZ (N)		*Wedding Crashers* ★★★ (2005, Comedy) (DVS)				Nip/Tuck (N)
	11	11	11 CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Love Letters (N) (DVS)		Just for Laughs Cupidity		CBC News: The National		Doc Zone
	32	32	32 CBS	PGA Tour Golf	WBZ News (N)	60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)		The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards (HDTV) (Live)				
	6	6	6 CIHF	Global Nat.	16:9-Picture	ET Canada Red Carpet		The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards (HDTV) (Live)				
	9	9	9 CJCH	Lost "Pilot"		Lost "Final Chapter"		Cold Case		Desperate Housewives		CTV News
	36	36	36 FOX	Cold Case		'Til Death (N)	'Til Death (N)	The Simpsons	Cleveland	Family Guy	American Dad	Fox First
	12	12	12 NBC	News	NBC News	Dateline NBC				Saturday Night Live-Sports		
sports	55	55	55 SCOR	NBA Basketball Indiana Pacers at Toronto Raptors. (Live)					Postgame	Hardcore Championship Fighting		
	53	53	53 TSN	SportsCentre		Hockey	Curling Scotties Tournament of Hearts. (HDTV) From Kindersley, Sask. (Live)					
cable variety	16	16	16 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal Minds (HDTV)		Criminal
	70	70	70 APTN	APTN InFocus	Investigates	Canadian Geographic		Call of the Wild		*Any Given Sunday* ★★★ (1999, Drama)		
	37	37	37 BRVO	Spectacle: Elvis		Arts & Minds	Bravo!FACT	Takao Tanabe: A Work of Art		*The Bourne Supremacy* ★★★ (2004)		
	49	49	49 COM	VIP	Bet Your Ass	Laughs	Laughs	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	The Simpsons	South Park	Tosh.0
	18	18	18 CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom		Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom
	38	38	38 DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters		Hitler's Hidden City (N)		42 Ways to Kill Hitler (N)		MythBusters
	34	48	48 HGTV	Holmes Inspection		House	House	My First Place	Bang, Buck	Holmes Inspection		House-Bryan
	46	46	46 HIST	Inside the Vietnam War		Inside the Vietnam War		Dogfights		*Rescue Dawn* ★★★ (2006, War)		
	17	17	17 MM	Make It or Break It		America's Best Dance Crew		So You Think You Can Dance				Dance Crew
	206	206	206 PIX	(6:50) *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986)			(8:40) *Don't You Forget About Me*			*Bulletproof Monk* ★★ (2003, Action)		
	39	39	39 SHOW	(5) *The Da Vinci Code*		Cra$h & Burn		*Lost in the Dark* (2007, Suspense) Mae Whitman.				Damages (N)
	40	40	40 SLICE	Buy Me	Buy Me	The Big Flip	Marriage	X-Weighted "Jade"		In Laws	In Laws	Matchmaker
	21	21	21 TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	17 Kids and Counting		19 Kids and Counting		Cake Boss (HDTV) (N)		Chocolatiers
	22	22	22 W	*Two Weeks*	Hwd 10 Best	Supernanny		Come Dine With Me "Exeter"		*Between Truth and Lies* (2006, Suspense)		
	27	27	27 YTV	*Nacho Libre* ★★ (2006, Comedy) Jack Black.				SpongeBob	Family Biz	Fries That?	Fries That?	Survive This

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Smash-hit smooch
Madonna and Britney Spears' kiss at the MTV Video Music Awards has been voted the most famous smooch of the last decade, according to the poll conducted by U.K. department store Selfridges. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Going Out

Lost art of love letters

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada

Despite producing the Valentine-tinged TV special Love Letters, Leah Pinsent doesn't have a romantic story surrounding her first meeting with her partner — fellow actor Peter Keleghan.

"No. We weren't star-crossed lovers or anything. It took some time," says Pinsent, who first met Keleghan when they were both starring on the CBC comedy Made In Canada in Halifax.

"I think it was fourth season in. It was a crazy love once it got started but we were both married at the start. So it was complicated. It was what it was."

Still — nine years in — it seems to be working out. So much so, the acting pair have teamed up for Love Letters — a meditation on generational love featuring excerpts from A.R. Gurney's play about would-be lovers who correspond solely through letters.

The excerpts are performed not only by Pinsent and Keleghan, but additional real life acting couples like Colin Mochrie (Whose Line Is It Anyway) and Deb McGrath (Little Mosque on the Prairie), Carlo Rota (24) and Nazneen Contractor (The Border), and Samantha Bee and Jason Jones (The Daily Show). The host is Leah's dad Gordon Pinsent.

In between excerpts from the play, the couples talk about their curious romantic lives as working actors/lovers.

"I'd seen When Harry Met Sally and I loved the parts where the real couples talk about their relationships, so we wanted to do that," says Pinsent with a laugh. "I'm just happy they're since we filmed it, our couples are all still together."

Pinsent says actors hooking up is no different than any two people with similar goals.

Success or failure depends on the match-up.

"Some stay together. Some don't. I think maybe actors can be more emotional, personally. But it ultimately depends on the people."

Pinsent laments the death of people actually writing letters to friends and family. Still, she admits that she isn't exactly a practitioner herself.

"I'd like to say I write letters, but I don't. I think my mother was the one who really loved to do that.

"It's a lost art I guess. Like putting photos in an album."

Love Letters airs Sunday night on the CBC


PHOTO PROVIDED

Celebrity couple Leah Pinsent and Peter Keleghan star in Love Letters airing Sunday on CBC Television.

Mix of Six

Sexy Laundry
When: Through Feb. 14.
Where: Neptune Theatre

Starring Wililam Vickers and Sherry Smith, this funny and fast-paced 90-minute play directed by Marcia Kash looks at a wife trying to rekindle the passion in her marriage after 25 years together.

Stephen Page
When: Friday, 8 p.m.
Where: The Schooner Room, Casino Nova Scotia

The former lead singer and songwriter with Barenaked Ladies is now on his own and is coming to town to perform a mix of old favourites and new jams.

Dead of Winter Music Festival
When: Through Sunday
Where: Various venues

Now in its fifth year, this festival brings together a diverse group of acoustic musicians to celebrate the excellence of our musicians and provide venues for artists who have not yet had the opportunity to perform their music to a wider audience.

Premier Basketball League
When: Sunday, 2 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre

The Halifax Rainmen have been perfect at home this season, and they'll look to continue that when the Rochester Razor-Sharks come for a visit.

Marcus Beaubier
When: Friday, 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, 8 and 10:30 p.m.
Where: Westin Nova Scotia

Beaubier hails originally from Newfoundland, but now lives in Alberta and the irony is not lost on him as its become part of his stand-up routine. Joining him are openers Matt Billon and Catherine Robertson.

Bust a Move
When: Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Where: Halifax Metro Centre

About 1,000 participants are expected to unite for Bust a Move for Breast Cancer in an six-hour exercise routine led by celebrity fitness instructors. For complete details visit bustamove.ca.

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 iPad
GADGET The one-button, keyboard-free slab of pure cool is being billed as a cross between a laptop and a smartphone, offering the best of both worlds. Apple says the gadget will go on sale in 60 days but no word from Canadian data carriers yet.



2 52nd Grammy Awards
SHOW This year, the women rule. Lady Gaga, Beyonce and Taylor Swift hold 23 nominations among them. Our money is on Swift, who has dominated the charts for two straight years with her country-tinged hits, but then Kanye West might have other plans. It airs Sunday on Global and CBS.

3 Lost season premiere
TV The super-twisty secrets of the crash-survivors saga will be revealed when the ABC series returns for one last time. The creators have promised Season 6 will be it, the dizzying flashbacks will be kept to a minimum and there will be plenty of bombshells. Premieres Tuesday on CTV.

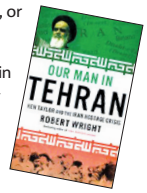
4 Rebirth: Lil Wayne
ALBUM Give Weezy a bluegrass tune and he'll Auto-Tune it to kingdom come. Thankfully, the rapper just sticks to good ol' rock in his much-anticipated, frequently delayed follow-up to the triple-platinum Tha Carter III. One word of caution — although the Feb. 2 release date is pretty much set in stone, don't be surprised if Wayne presses the "pause" button once again.

5 Mass Effect 2
GAME Bioware Edmonton and Montreal joined forces to deliver this sequel to the popular action role-playing game. The news sounds good so far for this sci-fi shooter — nearly 100,000 people were playing it online within hours of the game's release this week. Gaming pundits also predict that the current title will easily reach the million-selling heights of the first instalment.



6 Bright Star
DVD With Valentine's Day fast approaching, you could always set up a date with Hollywood romantic kitsch — both The Time Traveler's Wife and Love Happens will be released next week. Or you can curl up with Jane Campion's masterful Bright Star, which chronicles the doomed affair between Romantic poet John Keats and his muse, Fanny Brawne.

7 Our Man In Tehran: Robert Wright
BOOK Iran's trouble with the West, or the U.S. to be more specific, is not new. It started when Iranian students barged into the American Embassy in 1979 and took 54 hostages. Canadian professor Richard Wright goes right into the heart of the political intrigue and the role former Canadian ambassador to Iran, Ken Taylor, played in the release of several captives. This is history as gripping as any spy novel.





Spencer's got no mud flaps

Spencer Pratt is a dirty mud-slinger — and according to the police, dude needs to fix the problem stat. He was pulled over by the LAPD on Wednesday because his monster truck lacked mud flaps — which are required on certain vehicles. TMZ.COM

Entertainment

Couple breaks hearts at fest

Michelle Williams and Ryan Gosling are breaking hearts at the Sundance Film Festival.

The two star in the Sundance premiere Blue Valentine, a romance told in two time periods: at the giddy, breathless first flush of love, and at the bitter end as a marriage crumbles.

The film has a tortuous personal history even longer than the relationship the story presents. Blue Valentine director Derek Cianfrance started writing the script while at Sundance with his first film, Brother Tied, in 1998.

Cianfrance made documentaries in the interim, but it took more than a decade to get the cameras rolling for Blue Valentine.

"Derek is kind of obsessed with time. He has this time-theme obsession in his life. Even if he cooks, he says, like, 'Come over to the house. I'll make you a six-hour chicken,' or he makes like an all-day soup. He wakes up in the morning and by the end of the day, it's ready to eat," Gosling said in an interview alongside Williams.

"He really kind of believes that time makes things better and part of the focus of the film is time, between these two time periods.

The most powerful force is erosion. It can turn a mountain into a rock over time. So the film deals with that, and I think the fact that it took so long to make added to what it became."

Blue Valentine casts Williams as a college student who wants to go on to medical school and Gosling as a working-class guy who falls for her.

The film shifts between sweet, quiet, authentic moments of the two falling in love and a time years later, as they quarrel and struggle to reconnect for the sake of their marriage and their young daughter.

Williams and Gosling star in Blue Valentine

The actors, both 29, had been working with Cianfrance for years on the film, Williams since 2003, Gosling since 2005.

Williams, who earned an Academy Award nomination for Brokeback Mountain, and Gosling, an Oscar nominee for the Sundance premiere Half Nelson, said the story was shifting and gestating all that time.

"It was always allowed to change. It was never a fixed thing. Derek was never married to the page or married to anything he had written at all," Williams said. "He said, 'If it doesn't work for you, throw it all away.' So it was constantly evolving, and the movie we would have made seven years ago or whatever was a really different movie than what we made now."

One change was made to accommodate Williams, who had decided to forgo any work that would take her away from her East Coast home where she tends to her own young daughter by the late Heath Ledger.

Cianfrance transplanted the story from its original summer setting along the California beach to the East Coast in winter so they could shoot near Williams' home.

They shot the young love segments first, then took a month off so Williams and Gosling could build up personal recollections for the family during the intervening years. Williams and Gosling staged holidays, birthdays and everyday exchanges with Faith Wladyka, who plays their daughter, in the same house where they eventually shot the film's marriage portions.

"We really got to live in this space, and we got to decorate it ourselves and fill it up with memories and little touchstones all over the house that felt personal," Williams said.

Then came the hard part: Dismantling the love story they had built up in the first part of the film.

"Derek would make us fight and get into these brutal fights and then immediately get into the car with Faith, and then pretend like we weren't fighting. And then go on a family fun day," Gosling said.

All the years of preparation and reworking the story with Williams and Gosling paid off as soon as Cianfrance started shooting.

"The first day, the first scene that we shot with them together, I just breathed a sigh of relief, because I realized that it was there between them," Cianfrance said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Ryan Gosling and Michelle Williams star in Blue Valentine, out now at Sundance.

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Falco starstruck in new movie

MOVIES Edie Falco plays an average woman star-struck over her movie star neighbour in her new film 3 Backyards, which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival.

Yet The Sopranos and Nurse Jackie star finds it puzzling when others are starstruck by her own celebrity status.

"I'm really so normal. I'm really like as regular a person as you're going to come across, and I've been a regular person far longer than I've been anything else," Falco said in an interview at Sundance alongside best friend Eric Mendelsohn, writer-director of 3 Backyards.

"So this latest bizarre label that's been put on me is more of just, like, work. More part of the work."

The film marks a Sundance reunion for Falco and Mendelsohn, who have been pals since college and collaborated on the 1999 festival entry Judy Berlin, which featured Falco in the title role.

Mendelsohn, who teaches film at Columbia University, won Sundance's directing prize for Judy Berlin, but after a decade of struggling and failing to raise money for other films, he and his collaborators went back to the do-it-yourself approach on 3 Backyards. "We did it the same way we did it with Judy Berlin," Mendelsohn said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Edie Falco stars in 3 Backyards, out at Sundance.

Hathaway gets ribbing from troupe

AWARD Oscar-nominated actress Anne Hathaway is getting a good-natured ribbing from Harvard's Hasty Pudding Theatricals student drama troupe.

The group's Woman of the Year was being honoured Thursday with a parade down Massachusetts Avenue near the university, followed by a roast where she will receive her pudding pot from Harvard men in drag.

Hathaway was nominated for an Academy Award for best actress in 2009 for her role in Rachel Getting Married. She has also been in The Princess Diaries, Get Smart and The Devil Wears Prada.

She joins a distinguished list of past recipients that includes Katharine Hepburn, Lauren Bacall and Meryl Streep. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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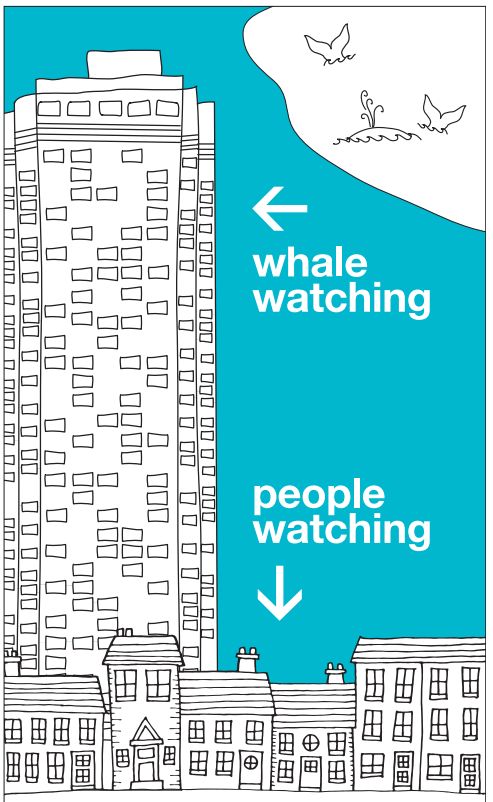
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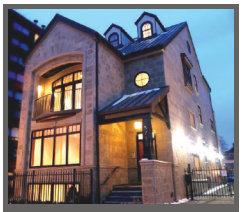
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Heroes don't drink and drive

Adrian Pasdar was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence. The Heroes actor, who is married to Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines, was pulled over by LA police on Wednesday, according to TMZ.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Just call him 'Prez'

IS THIS THE TYPE OF PLACE THAT THEY SHOULD SEND THIS COOL CAT? Will Smith is thinking about a career change, according to his wife, Jada Pinkett Smith, who's not exactly thrilled about it.

"Will is thinking about going into politics. He once said he could imagine becoming a U.S. president. He wasn't joking, he was quite serious about it," Pinkett Smith says, according to Hollyscoop. But politics isn't exactly up her alley.

"It's just not for me," she insists. Whether or not a run for the White House is in their future, Pinkett Smith says they are thinking about the bigger picture, though. "Will and I want to leave traces on this planet — and with that I mean more important traces than just films."



METRO WORLD NEWS

Husband sues studio

ALSO SUING THE GRIM REAPER Simon Monjack is planning to sue Warner Brothers for the wrongful death of his wife, Brittany Murphy, the Daily Beast reports.

Two weeks prior to Murphy's sudden death on Dec. 20 at age 32, the studio fired her from the sequel to the animated smash Happy Feet, where she was to reprise the role of penguin Gloria. "She was devastated," Monjack tells the Daily Beast's Gerald Posner. "They killed her."

Murphy's cause of death has yet to be released by the L.A. coroner's office — but Monjack and the star's mother, Sharon Murphy, both believe that the Clueless actress suffered a heart attack as a direct result of her cancelled contract.



METRO WORLD NEWS

Pitter patter of tiny Ferrell feet

PLEASE LET HIS MIDDLE NAME BE 'ROSE' OR 'GREASE' Will Ferrell and his wife, Viveca Paulin, welcomed their third son, Axel, who was born last week in Los Angeles, according to People magazine. The baby was born just hours after Ferrell and Paulin appeared on the final episode of The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien, where they performed Lynard Skynard's Free Bird in full hippie garb for the outgoing NBC host. "All the Ferrells are well," the actor's rep tells the magazine.



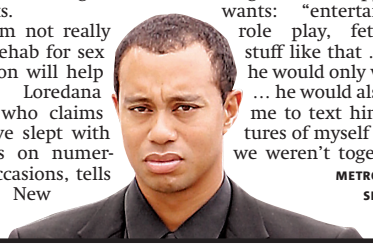
METRO WORLD NEWS

Tiger has been a very bad boy

SOMEONE'S BEEN A NAUGHTY GOLFER A woman who claims to have been a paid escort for Tiger Woods doesn't think the golfer's stint in sex rehab will do the trick, usmagazine.com reports.

"I am not really sure rehab for sex addition will help him," Loredana Jolie, who claims to have slept with Woods on numerous occasions, tells the New York Post. Woods' rep would not return calls to The Post regarding her allegations.

Jolie alleges that the 34-year-old golfer's sexual fantasies were "not normal." Among his supposed wants: "entertaining, role play, fetishes, stuff like that … but he would only watch … he would also ask me to text him pictures of myself when we weren't together."

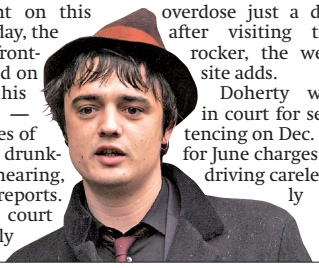


METRO NEWS SERVICES

Pete, pick another pocket

PREFERABLY ONE WITHOUT COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF NARCOTICS STUFFED INTO IT Pete Doherty has nearly as many drug and driving offenses to his name as he has years spent on this planet. On Tuesday, the Babyshambles frontman was slapped on the wrist for his latest offense — bringing 13 doses of heroin into a drunk-driving hearing, popeater.com reports. An English court handed him only a $1,400 US fine. But it's about to get worse for the embattled tabloid prince. Maybe a whole lot worse after friend Robin Whitehead was found dead of an overdose just a day after visiting the rocker, the website adds.

Doherty was in court for sentencing on Dec. 21 for June charges of driving carelessly while drunk and in possession of drugs when "13 wraps of heroin" fell from his pocket. "He was in a rush to get to court. He was handed a coat and he didn't check the pockets," his lawyer explained to the judge on Tuesday. The popular musician pleaded guilty to the December charges. He was ordered to pay $3,300 in fines and was banned from driving for 18 months. The drugs fell out of his pockets upon his exiting the courthouse.



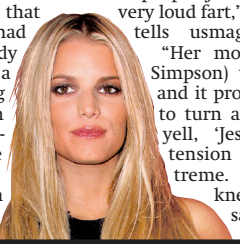
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Jessica 'Farty Pants' Simpson

CLASSY, AS ALWAYS A source tells Us Weekly that Jessica Simpson had a, ahem, windy moment during a business meeting for her denim line in late January. "While one of the executives was speaking in a room full of five people, Jessica let out a very loud fart," an insider tells usmagazine.com "Her mother (Tina Simpson) was there, and it prompted her to turn around and yell, 'Jessica!' The tension was extreme. No one knew what to say."

It wasn't Simpson's first brush with public flatulence: She famously cut loose on an episode of Newlyweds, telling then-husband Nick Lachey, "You love my stinky ass," and professed her fondness for between-the-sheets poots (a.k.a. Dutch ovens) to a radio station in 2008.



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Follow these celebrities on Twitter...

CelebTweets

TONY HAWK doesn't speak Chinese, but he can pretend, **JESSICA SIMPSON** can tell the future, **BILL COSBY** has some unwanted house guests, and **RAINN WILSON** is looking into quite a flattering mirror.

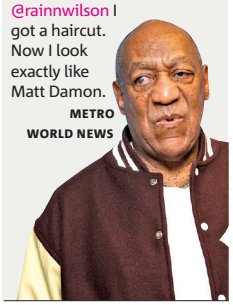
@tonyhawk Did a video yesterday for the State Dept: welcomed people to the USA Pavillion, in Mandarin (slaughtered the pronounciation). Life is weird.

@JessicaSimpson Had a dream at the start of fball season about the superbowl and I saw the colors purple and blue. Blue- Colts Purple? Will the Vikings win?

@BillCosby Human beings are the only creatures on earth that allow their children to come back home.

@rainnwilson I got a haircut. Now I look exactly like Matt Damon.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Charlie's angel

REMEMBER, KIDS, WISDOM-TOOTH REMOVAL AND PNEUMONIA LEAD TO DRUG ABUSE Charlie Sheen's wife, Brooke Mueller, is currently resting in a rehab facility in South Carolina, her father tells Radar Online, though he wouldn't confirm what she's in rehab for. "She is recognizing that she needs help and she can't do it on her own," Jon Fiore tells the website. "She is there. But it's a recovery place, and it is in a resort setting and the picture I'd like to paint more is that she's seeking help she wants to, she's dealing with this."

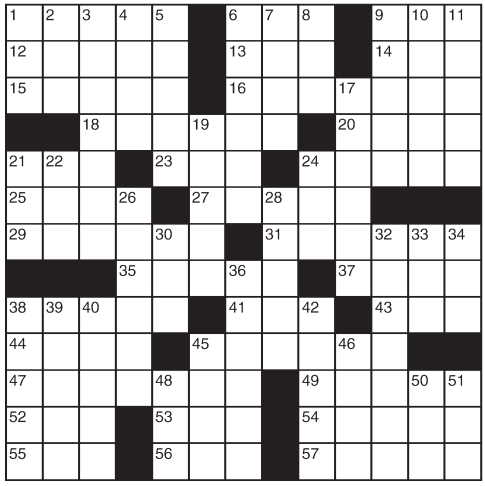


METRO WORLD NEWS

The Weather Network ©The Weather Network 2010
Today Flurries -2° / -11° 60%
Saturday Variable -7° / -14°
Sunday Partly cloudy -8° / -17°
TAKE THE WEATHER WITH YOU visit mobile.theweathernetwork.com

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Pie maker's device, at times
6 Sch. org.
9 Burst
12 Scent
13 Work unit
14 "Hail, Caesar!"
15 Genius
16 One who's hardly humble
18 Short and thick
20 Sty cry
21 Salamander
23 Crony
24 Intersect
25 Complaint
27 Skewered entree
29 Upbraid
31 Disinclined
35 Shopping centers
37 Go sightseeing
38 Claw
41 Victory
43 Inseparable
44 Language of Pakistan
45 Tots' break time
47 Supplementary dose
49 Election tally
52 Cleo's slayer
53 Ref
54 Varnish ingredient
55 Neptune's realm
56 Derek and Diddley
57 Old episode

DOWN

1 Taxi
2 Bobby of hockey lore
3 Poultry purchase
4 Send forth
5 Accumulated, as debts
6 Little rock
7 Avoirdupois alternative
8 — Khan
9 Veranda
10 They take the cake
11 Makes coffee, maybe
17 Fruity ice
19 Rock drummer Ginger
21 Decline
22 Doctor's due
24 Cleveland cager, for short
26 Renowned
28 Fundamental
30 Catch some rays
32 Farm alarm?
33 Baltimore newspaper
34 Prior to
36 Insignificant ones
38 Brass instruments
39 Got up
40 Treatment for Parkinson's
42 When pigs fly
45 San —, Italy
46 Unrivaled
48 Jalopy among boats
50 Flightless bird
51 Break a Commandment

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	5	9		1	4	2		
	8				6			5
			7	9				
		7				5	2	
			9		3			
	1	3				6		
				8	1			
9			2				4	
		1	4	3		8	7	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

L	I	S	T		H	A	M		E	M	U	S
O	D	O	R		E	G	O		Y	U	L	E
N	O	S	E		L	O	S		E	T	N	A
G	L	O	B	E	S		S	A	L	A	A	M
			E	L	I			N	E	T		
J	O	C	K		N	O	T	A	T	I	O	N
A	N	I			K	O	I			O	R	E
R	O	T	A	T	I	O	N		U	N	T	O
		A	M	O			K	I	N			
S	I	T	U	P	S		E	D	W	A	R	D
I	S	I	S		O	E	R		R	O	A	R
F	L	O	E		M	O	E		A	N	T	I
T	E	N	D		E	N	D		P	E	E	P

4	7	3	1	2	8	6	5	9
1	6	5	4	9	3	2	7	8
2	9	8	5	7	6	1	3	4
7	5	6	9	4	2	8	1	3
3	8	1	7	6	5	4	9	2
9	2	4	3	8	1	5	6	7
5	1	9	2	3	4	7	8	6
8	3	2	6	1	7	9	4	5
6	4	7	8	5	9	3	2	1

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca



Metro Recipe of the Day



Chinese Beef Noodle Soup

INGREDIENTS:

2 tbsp (25 ml) soy sauce
1 tbsp (15 ml) toasted sesame oil
2 tbsp (25 ml) dry sherry
2/3 lb (300 g) lean rump steak, sliced into very thin strips
4 cups (1l) beef stock
4 scallions, sliced
5 oz (150 g) shiitake mushrooms, thickly sliced
7 oz (200 g) baby bok choy, leaves halved
8 oz (250 g) instant fine egg noodles
1 tbsp (15 ml) canola oil

METHOD:

1. Combine soy sauce, sesame oil and sherry in bowl. Add strips of beef and toss until well mixed. Leave to marinate.
2. Heat stock in large pot or flame-proof casserole. Add scallions, sliced mushrooms and halved bok choy, and simmer 2 minutes.
3. Add nests of noodles to pan of vegetables and cook 2-4 minutes or until tender.
4. While noodles are cooking, heat wok or frying pan with oil and stir-fry beef until browned. Tip contents of pan into simmering stock. Bring back to boil. Taste and season with black pepper, then ladle into four serving bowls and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**


Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
With Mars, your ruler, transiting the most dynamic area of you chart good things will start happening soon.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Listen carefully to what loved ones and other family members have to tell you today because in one area at least they know what they are talking about.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
It may be frustrating that you can't seem to make up your mind over something which would normally take about three seconds to deal with.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
There are so many opportunities available to you now that you may find it hard to decide which ones to take advantage of.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You need to be selfish. You need to do what you want to do and if others don't like it that's too bad.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You may not approve of what a friend has done but you don't intend to condemn them for it either.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
If you don't know what it is you want how can you expect other people to know? The most important thing today is that you have a clear idea what to do.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
If you feel out of place in your present location then get up and go somewhere else. You are under no obligation to stay where you are.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Try not to read too much into what partners and colleagues say. True, they might have chosen their words with more care, you are being too touchy.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
If a friend or relative makes a suggestion today you would do well to listen. Someone close is about to have an extraordinary insight.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You like to take risks and, most of the time, they tend to pay off, but the cosmic picture is so uncertain today that it might be wise to bet only on certainties.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
There will be occasions today, and tomorrow, when it seems as if you are the only one who is out of step with the times.

This day in history

1886: Karl Benz patents the first successful gasoline-driven automobile.
1900: Baseball's American League is organized in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with eight founding teams.
1936: The first inductees into the Baseball Hall of Fame are announced.
1963: The first inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame are announced.
1996: President Jacques Chirac announces a "definitive end" to French nuclear weapons testing.

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MSRP ~~$13,599~~

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Hwy: 5.7L/100KM[†]

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- AM/FM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug audio system
- 60/40 split fold-down rear seat • Rear adjustable head restraints

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GL Sport model shown



Limited model shown

2010 ELANTRA L

MSRP ~~$15,849~~

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City: 7.8L/100KM[†]
Hwy: 5.6L/100KM[†]

- Dual front airbags • AM/FM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug audio system
- Power front windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat



GLS Sport model shown

2010 ELANTRA TOURING L

MSRP ~~$14,999~~

Now From **$13,999**[*] with **0%** Purchase Financing FOR 36 MONTHS[◊]

City: 8.9L/100KM[†]
Hwy: 6.4L/100KM[†]

- Dual front airbags • AM/FM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug/USB port audio system
- Power windows • Power door locks • 60/40 split fold-down rear seat



Limited model shown

2010 SANTA FE GL 2.4L

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- 6-speed transmission • Standard Bluetooth® hands-free phone system • A/C
- 6 airbags • AM/FM/XM/CD/MP3/Aux. plug/USB port 6-speaker audio system

City: 10.7L/100KM[†]
Hwy: 7.5L/100KM[†]

2010 SONATA GL

Now From **$17,999**[*] with **0%** Purchase Financing FOR 36 MONTHS[◊]

City: 9.7L/100KM[†]
Hwy: 6.2L/100KM[†]

- ABS with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) • 6 airbags
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Limited model shown

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